

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY: HOUSE BILL 6047

AN ACT PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE HATCHERIES

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 6047

The fish produced at the state's fish hatcheries and the fisheries programs developed by DEEP provide outdoor opportunities for tens of thousands of anglers annually resulting in over 2 million fishing trips for trout per year. This generates approximately \$50 million in expenditures for licenses, fishing equipment, food, transportation, lodging, etc. at Connecticut businesses. Approximately 15,000 school children participate in the Salmon-in-Schools and Trout in the Classroom programs which, because they utilize many volunteers, are a cost effective means of raising environmental awareness in young people.

It makes no sense to eliminate fishery programs that have such significant economic, educational and environmental benefits to Connecticut. In order to sustain these programs a long term solution is needed before any other budget cuts are made.

I urge the members of the Environment Committee to support this bill and request that you strongly advocate for its passage in the house and senate.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Rich
President, CT Fly Fisherman's Assoc.
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