



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

August 4, 2009

The Honorable Kate Brown
Secretary of State
136 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Secretary Brown:

I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 472 signed and approved.

This bill authorizes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to evaluate a remote hatchbox program in select Rogue Basin streams. The bill does not provide funding for the evaluation.

While I have no policy objection to ODFW conducting such an evaluation, I have significant concerns that the agency's workload was increased without funding. Throughout the legislative deliberations on SB 472, ODFW made clear that the evaluation would require funding, and documented its expected significant costs. Yet, neither SB 472 nor ODFW's appropriations bill provide the necessary funding. In order to undertake the evaluation authorized in SB 472, the agency would be required to curtail other programs and priorities in the current and possibly future biennia – something I am unwilling to allow.

The bill simply authorizes, and does not require, that ODFW conduct the evaluation. Therefore, I am signing the bill and directing ODFW not to begin the evaluation until sufficient funds are secured from either the legislature or other sources.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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