



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

August 6, 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 545 unsigned and disapproved.

This bill requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to conduct a study of fish hatcheries related to pathogens and the Desert Springs Trout Farm and to report to legislative interim committees.

I believe this bill is unnecessary and would impose an administrative and unfunded financial burden on ODFW.

Fishing, and hatchery trout production to support fishing, is very important to the State of Oregon and ODFW. Ensuring that hatchery trout production is economical, effective and healthy is a high priority of the agency and is as important to me as it is to the bill's sponsors. Therefore, by letter, I will direct ODFW to continue to assess ways to improve the efficiency, quality and health of its hatchery trout program, including assessment of the cost and benefits of acquiring the Desert Springs Trout Farm. This ongoing assessment does not require a statute and will help set the stage for future agency and legislative considerations.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:ks:mh