

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2017 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we the undersigned encourage you to include language supporting mitigation hatcheries in both the underlying bill and in the committee report. Mitigation hatcheries are an important economic driver of rural America, and the language below will help ensure continued support from the United States Congress.

We request the following language to be included in the underlying bill:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close any United States Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery, or to reduce production at such a hatchery of fish for recreational fishing below the level of such production during fiscal year 2013.

We also request the two following sections be added to the committee report:

The Committee expects that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close any United States Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery, or to reduce production at such a hatchery of fish for recreational fishing below the level of such production during fiscal year 2013.

The Committee encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reexamine their funding priorities with regard to the National Fish Hatchery System and to take return on investment into account in determining those priorities.

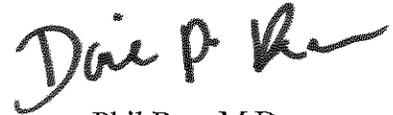
This language will strengthen the position of mitigation hatcheries within the National Hatchery System and protect this vital economic engine of rural America. Anglers, small businesses, and countless other industries from across the country reap the benefits of this essential service.

Thank you very much for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions.

Sincerely,



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress