

## Smith Holly

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**From:** Melodi Molt <melodimolt1972@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 6:21 AM  
**To:** HEE Exhibits  
**Subject:** HB 2705 and HB 2706.

Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: HB 2705-2706-2707 regarding water monitoring, charging more fees, reporting and regulations

The above bills create unnecessary burdens on farmers!

House Bill 2705 would require measurement and annual reporting of all diversions of water after 2020; HB 2706 would impose an annual \$100 "management fee" on each water right certificate, permit, decree, or groundwater registration; and HB 2707 would appropriate general fund dollars for ground water investigation and study.

Don't you realize, the metro areas use more water, (and does not produce one crop) than all of the farmers in Oregon? Why put this burden on farmers and those of us with water rights?

These bills create more financial burdens on agriculture. It is an over reach of more government regulations. The civil penalties can put a farmer out of business if he makes an innocent error trying to comply with reporting requirements.

These new house bills are more about the government gaining control of my water rights!

Installation of measuring devices on streams can cost tens of thousands of dollars, and daily maintenance can add up to thousands of dollars in additional labor costs.

The reporting, at least annually (and more often if the Oregon Water Resources Department so requests), of "water amount, rate, and duty" will add more thousands of dollars, annually, in time and additional out-of-pocket expense.

The inclusion of a \$500 civil penalty for each day of violation of the act, creates the threat of financial disaster for those who make innocent errors made while trying to comply with the reporting requirements in the HB 2705 because those errors might not be discovered for months after the reports are filed.

The concern that Oregon is suffering from a shortage of water is shared by many of us. Two of these bills (HB 2705 and HB 2706) as currently drafted, do little to help the water shortage.

Please VOTE NO on all three bills.

Melodi Molt  
Harney County Oregon