

## Smith Holly

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**From:** The SeCoy Family <secoy@delta-s.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:40 AM  
**To:** HEE Exhibits  
**Cc:** Rep Helm; Rep Power; Rep Johnson; Rep Holvey; Rep Barnhart; Rep Reschke; Rep Smith D; Rep Bentz; Rep Boone  
**Subject:** Re: HB 2705 and HB 2706

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment,

I am opposed to both HB 2705 and HB 2706.

Giving OWRD the right to tax every water right in the state is a very bad idea. For a lot of small family ranches such as ours, this will have massive consequences. For various reasons our water rights and those of a lot of other small land owners were set up as numerous smaller rights instead of a single big water right. So instead of a single \$100 dollar fee, what this proposes will be in the thousands of dollars.

A given piece of land can have several water rights with different dates and uses. As I understand it, this bill will allow the exact same land to be taxed several times. As it is written, this would be a massive bill that would cause us to discontinue irrigating on an annual basis. This bill would create such high operating costs on some property that people would be forced to give up water rights.

I also wonder what ORWD plans on doing with the money generated by this taxation.

In the last 20-30 years, the OWRD has not conducted any proper scientific research. Their science that has been checked by outside experts has often been unable to be replicated, which is the ultimate insult for a true scientist. This implies that ORWD is doctoring their "scientific research". In fact, ORWD has become so brazen about using bad science that they are currently in court about their "scientific" procedures, where it appears they have no intention of giving up their faulty computer models or correcting their tactics. Even if this enormous tax bill did not put such incredible pressure on small family farms and ranches, I would still oppose it until oversight was enforced on ORWD's scientific processes. There must be a way to ensure the money would be spent on proper, repeatable, scientific research, instead of computer models which are consistently proven to be massively inaccurate in the way that OWRD has implemented them.

As for measuring devices on diversions, the bill's language is way too vague. Our local ranches are not like a water district. A lot of our irrigation was installed by the government in the early 1900's and it works with nature. They did not make a massive ditch with a single headgate that is easy to measure. Instead, there are dozens of small diversions that work with the environment. It would be impossible to install measuring devices in a cost effective manner on each one of the dozens of diversions. Additionally, if even one single gauge should go out of calibration, then each rancher would then be forced to pay a daily fine of \$500. Even if the above logic was ignored, placing blame on landowners for state's measuring devices is not only ridiculously unfair, it is also just plain stupid.

I am against both HB 2705 and HB 2706 as they both put my family ranch at risk of being force out of existence with the undo extra costs. I also have no faith that the money collected will be spent wisely.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ann SeCoy

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