

Smith Holly

From: Ward Barker <wbarker@web.de>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: no, No NO!!! on HBs 2705, 2706, 2707
Attachments: signature.asc

These bills are another classic example of how some in the Oregon State government work overtime to separate residents from their hard-earned money.

Who's concerned about Oregon suffering from a water shortage? We Oregon residents are concerned about income shortages, and the expenses and fines in these bills do nothing to assuage those fears. So some in Oregon government want to fund a study on the measurement and reporting of water diversions. Maybe the government should study how to catch criminals ... REAL criminals, not the faux criminals who run afoul of ridiculous laws like this one, laws that do nothing to help Oregonians but only serve to criminalize law-abiding citizens and take their money in the name of the State of Oregon and fatten state coffers. Put simply:
this is a threat to rural property owners, not the water they use.

Frankly, all of Oregon needs LESS bureaucracy and more accountability.

If you have money problems in Salem, do what the families who elected you do: cut spending and downsize. Evaluate your income and expenses, then eliminate wasteful outgo: dining out, movies, extra vehicles, vacation cottages, boats ... there are a whole host of luxuries that simply cost money but don't help us meet our obligations. Remember that we citizens can't vote ourselves bigger incomes, so you shouldn't be taxing citizens because you think you need more money UNTIL you've taken the hard steps to eliminate waste. You haven't.

Back to the water issue ... These bills will only hurt rural Oregonians, the target of these bills, because it is they who have to most to lose.

Mr. Helm of Portland ... is HE a rural property owner? How many city dwellers have "water rights"? I daresay NONE. This is another example of the Oregon government blatantly attacking Oregonians who live outside urban boundaries--for ANY reason--whether by choice, by heritage, or as ranchers and farmers. Rural Oregonians with limited water supplies already regard water as a precious commodity and they treat it as such, doing everything they can to preserve the water they have and minimize wasteful use; this is just another example of Salem's unwillingness to leave rural Oregon alone and attempt to disenfranchise us.

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