

Smith Holly

From: Bob Hunter <bobhunter@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:15 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment:

My spouse and I manage a vineyard near Eagle Point, Oregon. We understand the critical importance of water for agriculture as well as for municipalities and streamflow to maintain Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. Water is a critical resource with many demands. With a growing population, increasing water demands and climate change the State can no longer ignore its responsibility to better manage our critical water resources.

The cornerstone of proper water management is measurement and reporting of water use. Irrigation districts and municipalities are required to measure and report water use. That is a good thing, but for proper management, measurement and reporting of all water use is essential. If we don't know what is really happening on the ground proper management is not possible. That is why I support HB 2705.

The State cannot properly manage our water resources without information. One area where information is lacking in many basins around the state is in respect to groundwater. Groundwater is critical to many water users and groundwater is in most cases connected to surface water. Without information the state cannot make informed allocation or other management decisions. We need groundwater studies of every basin in the state to properly understand and manage this resource. That is why I support HB 2707.

In order for the state to move away from just allocating our precious water resources and to begin actually proactively managing our resources a stable funding source is necessary. Water right holders receive a great benefit from being able to use the public's precious water resources, yet receive these benefits for free. It is only right that each water right holder contribute an annual fee toward management of the resource that they receive such a huge benefit from. A \$100 annual fee is not at all unreasonable. That is why I support HB 206.

It is the State's responsibility to all water users and all Oregonians to properly manage the public's water resources. The cornerstones for appropriate management are measurement, information and funding. Together HB 2705, HB 2706 and HB 2707 address all of these issues and passage of such legislation is long overdue.

I urge you to support HB 2705, HB 2706 and HB 2707.

Sincerely,
Bob Hunter
142 W. Dutton Road
Eagle Point, OR 97524