

Smith Holly

From: alxk@ortelco.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:48 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Oppose HB 2705, HB 2706, HB 2707

Oppose HB 2705, HB2706, and HB 2707

Energy and Environment Committee:

HB 2705, HB 2706, and HB 2707 bills are harmful to large and small farm operations throughout the State of Oregon. They are also unnecessary for the management of water resources in Oregon. We have time-tested methods of regulating water use in Oregon which are especially effective and efficient because of local knowledge and control. Water supply and demand are not only cyclical by season and local weather conditions, but also fluctuate over time from decade to decade. I remember in the 1980s when most of Harney County and Southeastern Oregon was under water from a wetter time period. Droughts and floods are something that has occurred for centuries. The amounts and use information required by these bills will vary widely, and be very expensive to complete, and will not provide any meaningful information. Studies and investigations financed by these fees would be essentially useless for management proposed by a centralized government agency. A better solution would be to encourage more storage projects in the headwaters of Oregon streams so the floods in March and April could be used for food and fiber production during the growing season.

Farms in Oregon are already being squeezed more and more by the increased energy costs imposed by the mandates for expensive solar and wind energy generation. The expense of putting in a well, pumping, and building the structures necessary for water delivery require great efficiency and planning in order not to waste resources. The increased cost of energy required to pump water is certainly raising production costs. When I look at the green lawns and nighttime pictures of Portland and other cities, I wonder if the people there really need all that non-productive water and energy use. HB 2705, HB 2706, and HB 2707 will certainly have more adverse effects on the rural farming areas than the cities. The measuring and reporting of water use, and charging an unnecessary fee will definitely add to the costs that farmers are already paying for water.

I cannot understand why the Democratically led Legislature would want to increase the price of groceries? Most of their constituency live in cities and many of them are already struggling to keep food on the table. The under privileged and poor would suffer the most from this unnecessary increase in the cost of food production. Please vote no on HB 2705, HB 2706, and HB 2707.

Sincerely,

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