

Smith Holly

From: Lynn Palensky <lpalensky@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 8:52 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

I am a citizen of Oregon, a fisher, conservationist, recreationist and a person who works to protect fish and wildlife in the Columbia Basin, I write in support of your House bills related to conservation of Oregon's Water Resources – 2705, 2706 and 2707.

I support HB 2707 Ground water resources are hugely important – we rely on groundwater for drinking water, well water for irrigation, and supplies base flows for rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. Ground water needs more focus and therefore resources must be there to complete a full accounting of groundwater sources. With the water situation in states around us, we should be taking stock to understand what we have so we can track and protect it.

I support HB 2706 because I know first hand that ODWR is chronically underfunded and lacks the staff to respond to the state's growing need to carefully manage waters, applications, and other instruments that help to conserve water (e.g. Transfers to in stream rights). Please see that ODWR is funded to protect water for us and fish and wildlife.

I support HB 2705 because we need water users to measure and report how much water they withdraw from rivers and from the ground. This is just a major no-brainer for me. How can we monitor and control use when we have know idea how much is being used by major users? I have my residential water measured in the city and pay for that! Every major users that withdraw directly from the rivers should not be held to different standards. Its not a single abuser that hurts us all; its the cumulative effects of unreported, illegal use. Conservation efforts should be encouraged and that can be tracked through simple measuring efforts.

Thanks for your consideration,

Lynn Palensky
Multnomah County