

Smith Holly

From: Rep Bentz
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:32 PM
To: Reiley Beth
Subject: FW: Please Oppose Water Cost Increases on Farmers

-----Original Message-----

From: Mr. & Mrs. Roger O. Ediger [mailto:edigerr@ortelco.net]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:13 PM
To: Representative Cliff Bentz <rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us>
Subject: Please Oppose Water Cost Increases on Farmers

Dear Representative Bentz,

Open Letter to the Committee hearing HB 2705 and HB 2706:

Sirs:

As the third generation stewards of our 100 year old family ranch it is not our intent to be perceived as being arrogant, rude or sanctimonious but the truth is that the average or typical Metro - Urban citizen of our state has little, if any, realistic understanding of the daily challenges, costs, obstacles, regulations and forces of nature that family farmers and ranchers deal with on a daily basis. HB 2705 and 2706 do nothing but add to this cumbersome burden. For the majority of our rural counties, especially in East Oregon, agriculture is one of the most significant components of the economy of each county. HB's 2705 and 2706 are yet another assault on the financial integrity and solvency of our farm and ranch families which, in turn, directly impacts the financial well being of the economy of each rural county. HB's 2705 and 2706, collectively, impose more regulation, more expense, more required time and yet solve very little except increasing state income by taking dollars which most farm and ranch families do not have to spare.

These proposed bills are bad for family farms, family ranches and Oregon agriculture in general. They do nothing to address the issue of water shortage. They do, however, add additional stress to those of us that help support the economies of our rural counties, practice positive land stewardship, efficient irrigation and water use practices and work to conserve open space and wildlife habitat.

We urge you to oppose the passage of HB 2705 and HB 2706 as they pose serious negative impacts to our rural counties and all family farms and ranches in Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger O. and Meredith L. Ediger
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Sincerely,

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