

Smith Holly

From: Karl Lee <karlknutelee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:59 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Cc: Karl Lee
Subject: hb 2705, 2706, 2707

To State legislature:

Please support HB 2705, 2706, and 2707. Having worked 32 years as a scientist studying streamflow and ground water for the US Geological Survey, I know first-hand the importance of both data and interpretation. Without enough of either, regulators are at a loss as to how to manage water resources in the State. I am ready to see the legislature step up and take appropriate action.

It is clear that Oregon needs an improved system for managing surface and groundwater together. They are part of a single system. Water is scarce for during many months of the year, and often there is insufficient water in streams for people, fish, and wildlife. Also, groundwater levels continue to decline in many parts of the state, and these declines generally lead to diminished streamflow months to years later.

This is not new. The problems we have had for the past decades will likely be exacerbated by increased demand due to increased population, as well as climate change that is occurring today, extending to the foreseeable future. The time for a reasonably up-to-date water management system is more than overdue.

House bills 2705, 2706, and 2707 represent important steps in the right direction toward sensible, accountable water management. It is unacceptable that Oregon does not require most water users to measure and report their water use. While Federal funds have provided matching allocations for basic data collection and interpretation in the past, even this stability is in question at this time owing to shifting Federal priorities. Oregon needs a dedicated funding source for administration and enforcement of water rights, including stream and groundwater rights.

We need this, for all Oregonians, urban and rural, and for now into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Karl Lee

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