

Smith Holly

From: Thomas Bishop <tom@bishoptrust.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:56 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

I am a resident of central Oregon who cares very deeply about advancement of mankind by ensuring sensible growth and a better future for generations to come. Water is the key to life in the future for humans and all other living creatures as a part of the world in which we exist.

I am a retired executive who appreciates the importance of measuring and monitoring to achieve results in managing resources. After all, "If you don't measure it, you can't manage it."
Also, as the late Texas Senator Lloyd Benson famously commented, "You can expect what you inspect".

We must devote resources to monitoring, measuring and managing our water resources in order to have them available for future use. We should not squander them by failing to manage our water resources or to allow inefficient or other uses that are not in the public interest.

An example in central Oregon of idiotic use of water would be for private water ski lakes. There is a real risk of this being allowed under current circumstances if the OWRD is not adequately funded and if our groundwater resources, belonging to the public, are not properly identified, measured and managed. There actually are two unpermitted water ski lakes in Deschutes County alone that were recently excavated with the expectation in one case by the developer of pumping groundwater to fill and replace evaporative loss of water for so-called amenity purposes and purported fire-fighting purposes. The shallow black-line reservoirs are effectively evaporative ponds, one of them having already been used for water skiing and designed specifically as a competition-style water ski pond. A 5-year limited license application and a permanent groundwater permit for this purpose is being sought. The OWRD should be expected to deny such a wasteful use of water and should be provided the data, tools, scientific information and staff to ensure that such wasteful use of water will not be allowed in this state.

I support HB 2705 so measurement of water resources will allow for sensible management of it and so users can be held accountable for waste.

I support HB2707 so the people and the OWRD can better understand the condition and supply and locations of groundwater in our various basins soon and not to have to wait another generation or more when it might be too late to protect our resource.

I support HB 2706 so the people will have an OWRD that actually has the staffing it needs to do to work of the people and to serve water users by administering the water laws effectively, fairly and competently.

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