

## Smith Holly

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**From:** Carol Macbeth <cmacbeth@lclark.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** HEE Exhibits  
**Subject:** I support HB 2705, HB 2707, and HB 2706

Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

This is to support three bills, HB 2705, HB 2706, and HB 2707.

I live in Bend where the average precipitation is 12 inches per year. For comparison, that is the amount of rain that fell in Portland in the last month alone.

The U.S. Geological Survey has conducted an in-depth study of the Deschutes River Basin and determined that our creeks and rivers are interlinked with groundwater, and that our groundwater comes from snowmelt from the eastern slopes of the Cascades. As global warming continues, the Cascades are receiving less snow and more rain, so there will be less snowmelt in the future.

Future rain, unlike snow, which melts gradually, will run into the Deschutes River to the Columbia River and be lost to Central Oregon. It is only a matter of time, perhaps 300 years, before our use of groundwater in our aquifer water outstrips the rate of snowmelt to replace it.

For these reasons it is vital that we do everything to measure, and optimize, the use of water, especially groundwater. It appears likely that in the long run, in a contest for water between cities and farmers, the cities will win. Therefore it is in the best interests of farmers, and in the best interests of Oregonians who prize local agriculture, to require all water users to optimize water usage as much as possible, beginning immediately.

OWRD, like ODFW, needs stable funding. Global warming is an unanticipated challenge, and as a state we need to face the challenge rather than hope it goes away.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote yes on all three of these important water bills, HB 2705, HB 2706, and HB 2707.

Thank you for your attention to these views.

Best regards,

Carol Macbeth  
Bend