

Smith Holly

From: Dean Runyan <dean.runyan@deanrunyan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:49 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

Dean Committee members:

Support for these three bills is vital. We have underfunded the effort to properly plan for Oregon's water resources for years, and now face urgent needs to prepare water resource plans and ramp up surface and ground water conservations efforts, but face very limited staff and other resources. We need to adopt much better water resource use measures so that we have the data necessary to do meaningful planning. We need to target our planning efforts on the most important regions. We need to take responsibility for the dire situation we face now, as ground water is increasingly in short supply and we are ill prepared for the increasing temperatures that will surely come in the future.

In order to support the state's efforts to better measure and plan for water resources we need a revenue stream that covers the increased staff and other expenses. The users of ground and surface water can reasonably be expected to support the costs of properly planning for and managing the resource they are extracting. The time has come for them to shoulder some of the burden they are creating for the rest of the state. They may argue that the increased cost to their operations is unfair, but it is not, it is simply assigning some of the real costs of water use to those who previously have not had to pay for them. They can pass those costs along to the customers of their businesses, as businesses do, which is appropriate and not a reason for avoiding paying.

Please support these three bills, our ability to properly plan for and manage our vital water resources depends on it.

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