

Smith Holly

From: Jed Hassinger <jedhassinger@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:51 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Comments on HB 2705 and HB 2706

House Committee on Energy and Environment,

As a farmer of irrigated cropland in the Grande Ronde basin, I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2705 and HB 2706. These bills would unfairly impose new financial burdens that would be difficult for our small family farm to bear.

HB 2705 would require the installation of data-logging measurement devices at all diversion points. Because of the way my family's farm is situated along Catherine Creek and several small sloughs, we would be required to install 15 such devices within a small area; just three quarter sections. I have recently been quoted a cost of \$2186.00 for a data-logging measurement device (without installation). The cost for our farm to comply with this bill would therefore be over \$40,000.00, more than our small operation can bear. Further, we would be required to record data from each device on a monthly basis and report to OWRD, which would introduce another significant ongoing cost to our operation. Failure to comply with these onerous requirements, even in the event of equipment failure, would result in devastating punitive penalties of up to \$500.00 per day. Taken together, these new regulations place our family business at dire risk of financial ruin, and without any foreseeable benefit; data that OWRD presently collect aren't processed and analyzed, due to lack of resources.

HB 2706 would introduce a new fee on water users, at a rate of \$100.00 per water right, annually. Water users are being unfairly targeted as a new revenue source, as the moneys collected will not go toward providing an equivalent benefit for users. Further, the property taxes paid by water users already account for the value of the water rights- so this bill would effectively impose double taxation on the use of water. The bill is also unfair to different users, as it doesn't account for the size of a water right, but only the total number of water rights held. As mentioned above, my family's farm has multiple small water rights within a small area, which would result in a higher annual fee than a farm with a single water right spread over a larger area. For our farm, what this bill amounts to is a highly significant new tax, imposed unfairly and without justification, and which offers no foreseeable benefit in return.

Please vote no on HB 2705 and HB 2706.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jed Hassinger

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