

March 21, 2017

Chair and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 2706

UP FRONT: The Crooked River Ranch (CRR) Club and Maintenance Association is opposed to HB 2706 in particular as well as the other two water related bills: HB 2705 and 2707.

BACKGROUND: As president of the Crooked River Ranch (CRR) Club and Maintenance Association, I am writing on behalf of my 5,500 constituents who are members of the CRR association. We are the largest Planned Unit Development in Oregon consisting of 12,500 acres with 2644 building sites. Of those sites, 1,560 are served by our private water company drawing water from two well with the balance of 1,084 building sites being served by individual private wells, all of which would fall under the purview of HB 2706. Under the revenue structure of HB 2707 this would represent a combined "tax" on CRR residents with wells of approximately \$108,600 annually. This aggregate fee is unfair, unconscionable and reprehensible. I could find no rationale or reasoning for this bill under the HB 2707 OLIS page under the headings of "Overview," "Analysis," or "Meeting materials." Absent any cogent reasoning, I cannot support this bill nor encourage any of our members to support HB 2706 or the other two related bills in this triad.

No matter if our membership is served by our internal water company or are individual well permit holders, they paid for their water rights, paid for their wells and pay to maintain their wells. Any management involved is internal. Outside management by the State would not be a value added feature.

CONCLUSION: The Water Resources Department's stated mission is: "To serve the public by practicing and promoting water management through two key goals . . ." The operative phrase is "To serve the public" which begs a universal solution to whatever perceived funding needs there are being served by the general fund so that the total "public" who benefits from the mission of the Water Resources Department and their management also contributes to the Water Resources Department funding. Cherry picking the low hanging fruit of the water rights holders may be the most expedient, but not the most egalitarian method for funding the department. For reasons outlined above, the Crooked River Ranch Club and Maintenance Association remains opposed to HB 2706.

Regards,

David Palmer

President
Crooked River Ranch
Club and Maintenance Association
5195 Clubhouse Rd
Crooked River Ranch, Oregon 97760