

## Smith Holly

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**From:** Kate Adams <kate.adams@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** rep.kenhelm@state.or.us; Rep.MarkJohnson@state.or.us; Rep Power;  
Rep.PhilBarnhart@state.or.us; Bentz Cliff; Rep.DeborahBoone@state.or.us; Rep Holvey;  
Rep Reschke; Rep Smith D  
**Cc:** HEE Exhibits; Huffman John; Ferrioli Senator Ted; Smith Holly; Ferrioli Ted;  
rep.gregbarreto@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 2706

March 21, 2017

Chair and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Opposition to [House Bill 2706](#)

UP FRONT: We are opposed to HB 2706 in particular as well as the other two water related bills: [HB 2705](#) and [HB 2707](#).

BACKGROUND: This fee is unfair, unconscionable and reprehensible. I could find no rationale or reasoning for this bill under the [HB 2706 OLIS](#) page under the headings of “Overview,” “Analysis,” or “Meeting materials.” Absent any cogent reasoning, I cannot support this bill or the other two related bills in this triad. A misconception being circulated is that HB 2706 does not apply to “personal wells” (domestic water wells?). I can find nothing in the text of HB 2706 that would exempt these wells from any and all fees.

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, we remain opposed to HB 2706. Oregon government seems to have what it takes to take what you have.

Regards,

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