

Smith Holly

From: Rep Nearman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 3:23 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: FW: HB 2705, HB 2706, HB 2707

For OLIS.

Thank you,

Becky Mitts

Chief of Staff
Rep. Mike Nearman, Oregon House District 23
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From: Jim Ludwick [mailto:jludwick@viclink.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:24 PM
To: rep.mikenearman@state.or.us
Subject: HB 2705, HB 2706, HB 2707

March 22, 2017

Representative Nearman:

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2705, HB 2706 and HB 2707. The three bills will be presented in a hearing today in the House Committee on Energy and Environment.

All three of the bills deal with the broad issue of private water usage. All three of the bills will allow state agencies to regulate water usage of citizens.

I have a private well that I use for general house hold needs and for livestock. While I have been told that domestic water usages will not be affected by these bills I am not convinced. Rather I believe state agencies will over time use the data to regulate my water usage.

In House Bill 2705 Section 2 (1) it reads, "The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) Water use data is a fundamental tool to ensure efficient management, ensure effective water distribution and help plan for future water needs.

My well is on my property and I am the best judge of my own water usage and not some state bureaucrat.

House Bill 2706 imposes an annual management fee. I paid for the cost of digging my well. I pay for the maintenance of my water system. I pay for the cost of electricity. I do not want to pay more money to enlarge yet another state bureaucracy.

House Bill 2707 appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Water Resource Department in order to expand its authority over citizen's water usage. I keep reading that the state government has a budget shortfall of \$1.6 billion. Yet this bill would expend money creating a bigger and more expensive state bureaucracy. Shouldn't the Legislature be looking at cutting expenses instead of increasing spending?

Over the years I have witnessed the expanding overreach of state government into just about every facet of citizen's lives. Often times bills that at first glance seem insignificant, end up being just another way for state government to expand its control over citizen's private lives. These three bills, HB 2705, HB 2706 and HB 2707, all seem to be another attempt to do just that.

I urge you to vote NO on those three bills.

Jim Ludwick

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