



Oregon Water Resources Congress

437 Union St. NE | Salem, OR 97301 | Phone: 503-363-0121 | Fax: 503-371-4926 | www.owrc.org

March 21, 2013

To: Chair Bailey, Vice-Chairs Boone and Johnson, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Support of HB 2894

Chair Bailey, Vice-Chairs Boone and Johnson, and members of the Committee:

We are writing to voice our support of HB 2894. The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is a nonprofit trade association representing agricultural water suppliers in Oregon, primarily irrigation districts, as well as other special districts and local governments that deliver irrigation water. OWRC was established in 1912 to support member needs to protect water rights and encourage conservation and water management statewide. OWRC members deliver water to more than 560,728 acres of farm land state-wide, roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon.

HB 2894 will help OWRC members and the water users they serve implement an array of important energy conservation measures. Changing the threshold amount from \$20,000 to \$50,000 is a small but important change that will provide more opportunities for irrigators to improve energy conservation throughout Oregon. This tax credit can be used to purchase Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) for irrigation pumps, which helps improve energy efficiency and conservation as well reducing utility costs for the farmer and/or district.

Additionally, HB 2894 can help maximize energy conservation measures and federal funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) water and energy conservation programs. Several districts participate in these programs and work with their farmers and other water users to install various conservation measures that both save energy and save water.

We urge you to support HB 2894 and help irrigators implement energy conservation measures.

Sincerely,

April Snell
Executive Director