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March 28, 2013



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES™



To: Co-chairs Edwards and Unger, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

RE: Support for Oregon Water Resources Department Budget, SB 5547

Co-chairs Edwards and Unger, and members of the subcommittee:

We are writing to voice our support for the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) budget, SB 5547. We are a diverse group of water users, conservation groups, municipalities and water stakeholders with a common goal: to advocate for common sense water policies that move Oregon's economy, communities, and environment toward a secure water future.

With the adoption of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy in 2012, now is the time to capitalize on momentum and enact water policy for Oregon that creates jobs to help grow our economy, keeps our cities healthy, strengthens vital agricultural production, and protects and enhances our environmental assets. We all agree that adequate funding for OWRD is essential to ensure the responsible management of our valuable water resources to meet a diverse array of needs.

Water is the lifeblood of Oregon's economy and environment, and OWRD is the state agency in charge of making sure it is properly allocated and managed. Unfortunately, OWRD's share of critically important General Fund dollars has been shrinking for several years. As a result, OWRD now receives 0.15% of the total General Fund to carry out its vitally important mission.

These funding declines have a direct impact on the ability of cities, farms and industries to access water, and on the availability of good scientific data to understand how and when water can be used without harming the fish and wildlife that also depend on Oregon's streams and rivers.

While we believe the vital services provided by OWRD should be funded through an equitable combination of fees, General Fund and other sources, the reality today is that OWRD is highly dependent on General Fund dollars to accomplish its mission. Accordingly we urge you to increase funding for the Department this biennium as a first step toward re-investing in our state's water future.

Sincerely,

The Freshwater Trust

The Nature Conservancy

Oregon Environmental Council

Special Districts Association of Oregon

League of Oregon Cities

Oregon Association of Nurseries

Oregon Water Resources Congress

March 22, 2013

Kyle Gorman

Region Manager - Oregon Water Resources Department

kyle.g.gorman@state.or.us

Senate Co-Chair Chris Edwards, (D-Eugene) ; House Co-Chair Ben Unger, (D-Hillsboro)

Dear Kyle

I wanted to take the time and thank you and everyone in your department at the State Water Masters Office in Bend Oregon. I have been in real estate for 25 years selling farm ranch properties in Central and Eastern Oregon. I have listed many properties over the years that have severe water right issues and your group has gracefully given me their time and their knowledge in wading through all the paper work. They have mapped out the correct acres and given me a chain of command that is easy for the Sellers/Buyers on how we got to those figures and what their water rights are and where they are located. They have always taken the time to meet with the Sellers/ Buyers and explain the process of the water rights issues that we are dealing with in a manner that we can easily follow and understand. When I come to the office or bring my clients to their office they have their computers ready and supply us with the correct information and maps and answer everyone's concerns and questions, it is invaluable.

Throughout the years I have worked with the State Department in Salem and they are great but they are too far away to provide the service and the hands on knowledge that your office provides.

I deal in large farms and ranches and many of the owners don't know the land use and water rights laws and they are under the assumption that if they have this water right they can apply this water right anywhere. I have had districts and areas that have never been mapped out. I have had priority water rights over priority water rights that need to be re mapped. I have had many realtors that do not understand supplemental water rights and list those as active priority water rights.

David, Jeremy, Barb and you are always there to answer any questions or concerns that I or my clients and coworkers have and they have been an important tool in getting my job done correctly so there are not huge issues later. The tools they supply me with, in maps, certifications, permitted water rights, date of issue and knowledge on navigating your website is an invaluable tool that I use constantly.

Again thank you and your examiners for everything you do.

Sincerely

Pamela Mayo Phillips

Cascade Sotheby's International Realty/ Farm Ranch Division

Desert Valley Group

541-480-1513

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Licensed Realtor in the State of Oregon



Central Oregon Cities Organization

Bend, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Maupin
Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters

March 22, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair and
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Way and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NR, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

RE: COCO Support for OWRD Budget

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

The Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) includes the cities of Bend, Culver, Madras, Redmond, La Pine, Maupin, Metolius, Prineville and Sisters. COCO's purpose is to effectively and efficiently promote the common interests of the cities in Central Oregon, which include interests related to water, transportation, economic development, school funding and tax reform. The members of COCO recognize that water is a precious resource that is necessary for the health and well-being of its citizens, as well as a prerequisite for economic development. COCO members rely on the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to complete water rights transactions and, as necessary, protect the cities' water rights. For these reasons, COCO provides this letter in support of OWRD's budget. In particular, COCO would like to express its support for the following packages:

Package #101 (Re-instate Water-Use Reporting Program): In recent years, OWRD has not had staffing for its Water Use Reporting program. This lack of necessary staffing has created a hardship for water users seeking to obtain water use information from OWRD or to work cooperatively with the agency on issues related to water use reporting, which is required of all municipalities. Additionally, the ability to obtain reliable data regarding the use of water resources is necessary for water supply planning efforts.

Package #108 (Water Right Management Fee): COCO supports OWRD efforts to secure long-term reliable funding for the agency through a water right management fee, provided that municipal water right holders are subject to the same "cap" afforded to other water right holders. Secure funding for agency functions, such as distributing water according to priority date, will provide municipal water providers with certainty that OWRD will have sufficient staff to carry out these important activities on which COCO's members rely.

Betty Roppe, Chair
Central Oregon Cities Organization
(541) 447-5627
broppe@cityofprineville.com

Doug Riggs, Lobbyist
NW Grassroots & Communications
(503) 702-5120
doug@ngrc.com

Package #201 (Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Strategy): COCO also supports OWRD's ongoing efforts toward integrated water resources management. In particular, COCO encourages the subcommittee to support funding to promote integrated water resources management planning at the local level. Local water resources planning, such as the "Basin Study" currently being pursued in the Deschutes Basin, will be a key to effectively managing water resources in the future.

Package #204 (Water Supply Development Program): COCO would like to express its strong support for water supply development funding. Continued economic development in Central Oregon, and throughout the state, will depend on the availability of a reliable water supply. As we all know, the state no longer has readily available new sources of water supply. Development of new water supplies (both instream and out-of-stream) will require significant investments in project development and implementation. These costly projects will likely depend on partnerships with state and federal governments. COCO encourages this sub-committee to continue the state's support for these critical activities, which are vital to our state.

Package #208 (Extend Water Transaction Fee Schedule): COCO also supports OWRD's efforts to maintain (or in some cases increase) current transaction fees, with the understanding that OWRD will make it a priority to complete transactions currently pending with the agency. COCO members rely on OWRD to complete their water right transactions in a timely manner in order to allow the ongoing management of the water providers' water rights and water supply. For example, COCO members must often acquire mitigation credits before expanding the use of their groundwater permits, which would typically require OWRD to process and approve an instream transfer or lease. Consequently, the timely processing of these types of transactions are crucial to COCO members.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for OWRD's budget. Please contact me if you have any questions. My telephone number is 541-447-5627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty Roppe, Mayor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betty" being the most prominent.

Betty Roppe
Chair

From: Brook Havens [<mailto:brook@desertvalleyrealtors.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 12:59 PM
To: kyle.g.gorman@state.or.us
Subject: Letter of support -Central Oregon Water Resources Department

Chris Edwards & Ben Unger

Our Cascade Sotheby's office - Farm & Ranch division and our land owners utilize the Bend Water Master Office Services weekly to research our properties for listings. The Staff is amazing and very helpful. They help educate us in our profession and improve the quality of Service we can Provide for our clients. Having our facts correct and verification of irrigation water and wells is very important part of our job.

It is very hard to ask the questions that we have over the phone and the convenience and quality of being able to have a face to face meeting and point out our questions on a map. The local office has also provided us with tools (aps for our phones etc) that allow us to show properties better.

In my opinion we would be loosing a very good resource for our community if the Bend Water Resources office was no longer a service available to us. Please consider this as you are going over the budget.

thank you

Brook Havens

Desert Valley Group, Cascade Sotheby's International Realty
541-604-0788 cell
brook@desertvalleyrealtors.com
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www.cascadesotheysrealty.com

Principal Broker, Licensed in the State of Oregon



Water Solutions, Inc.

March 25, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair and
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Way and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NR, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for OWRD Budget

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. is a consulting firm that provides groundwater, environmental management and water rights consulting services to clients throughout the State of Oregon. Our clients include municipalities, irrigators, and entities seeking to protect water instream. I am, however, submitting this letter on behalf of GSI, and not on behalf of any of its clients.

I would like to take this opportunity to express GSI's support for the Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) budget. Our company's water rights consulting clients depend on OWRD being able to complete water right transactions and provide information in a timely and efficient manner. As a result, it is important that the agency be well funded and have sufficient staffing levels. Insufficient funding for OWRD would have a detrimental impact on business, and would also impair our clients' ability to promote and generate economic development throughout this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for OWRD's budget. Please contact me if you have any questions. My telephone number is 541-753-0745, ext. 202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Livesay".

Dave Livesay, RG

President



The Klamath Tribes Tribal Council

March 19, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Joint Ways and Means Committee
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

The Klamath Tribes have been participating in the Klamath Basin Water Adjudication for many decades. With the Final Order of Determination (FOD) issued earlier this month by the Adjudicator, water rights in the Klamath Basin are now enforceable for the first time. The FOD confirmed the instream water rights of the Klamath Tribes. We expect enforcement of water rights in the Klamath Basin to be a challenge for the Oregon Water Resources Department, especially in the first few years following the FOD, since there has been no prior enforcement.

Therefore, the Klamath Tribes strongly support Package #203 in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2013-2015, which would fund an Assistant Watermaster position in Klamath County. Please retain Package #203 in the Governor's budget.

Sincerely,


Gary Frost
Chairman

501 Chiloquin Blvd. - P.O. Box 436 - Chiloquin, Oregon

(541) 783-2219 ~ Fax (541) 783-3706





735 Commercial Street, Suite 3000
P.O. Box 1402
Klamath Fall, OR 97601
Phone: (541) 883-6100
Fax: (541) 883-8893

Sent to all Parties via Electronic Mail

March 21, 2013

Senator Richard Devlin
Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Rm. S-209
Salem, OR 97301
sen.richarddevlin@state.or.us

Rep. Peter Buckley
Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Rm. H-286
Salem, OR 97301
rep.peterbuckley@state.or.us

RE: Klamath Water Users Association General Support for OWRD Budget

Dear Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs;

Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley, on behalf of the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA), I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide our input regarding the Oregon Water Resource Department's (OWRD or Department) 2013-15 budget. We write this letter with a specific emphasis on those issues with which we are most familiar in the Klamath Basin. While we may have questions or lack direct experience with items addressed in other elements of the budget, in general, KWUA supports the Governor's proposed 2013-15 budget for OWRD.

KWUA is a non-profit corporation that has represented Klamath Reclamation Project farmers and ranchers since 1953. Our members are irrigators and irrigation districts who hold contracts with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation to operate and maintain the facilities that supply water for their family farm and ranch operations. KWUA members include rural and suburban irrigation districts and other public agencies (drainage districts, improvement districts, etc.) as well as private individuals who operate on both sides of the California-Oregon border. Our members serve over 1200 family farms and ranches that encompass over 170,000 acres of some of the very best farmland in the West. These are the individuals and lands that have been at the heart of some of the most contentious and difficult

conflicts that the modern west has seen including a water shut-off in 2001 and, including this season, curtailments of some degree in three of the last four years.

Once again the Klamath Basin appears headed for difficult times in the 2013 irrigation season. While precipitation for the water year (which started in October of 2012) is at 91% of average the overall snow water equivalent is at a precariously low 66% of average. This, coupled with below average inflow to Upper Klamath Lake and federal Endangered Species Act issues, means it is likely that there will be limited operational flexibility for the Bureau of Reclamation and its ability to provide water to the membership of KWUA. In the past, OWRD's quick response and upfront work in the basin has been a huge reason that total catastrophes have been avoided. The Department's efforts related to groundwater issues and its close coordination and input with the Governor and with water users is critical. Department staff is in regular contact with the water user community and the need for coordination and cooperation will be even more critical in the future. One key difference this year is that for the first time ever, the state has the ability, and the obligation to enforce water rights based on the first in time first in right prior appropriations doctrine. KWUA and its member districts have long advocated prompt completion of the Klamath Basin Adjudication, and all things considered, OWRD moved contested claims through the process at a good pace once the process began in earnest. The Department (and the legislature) should be commended for committing to get this phase of the adjudication finished in a timely fashion.

In addition to this example of the general importance of the Department's work, we have these additional reasons for supporting the proposed budget:

Enforcement of the Final Order of Determination in the Klamath River Basin Adjudication

Of all the contentious issues inside and outside of the agricultural community in the Klamath Basin, the one area of widespread agreement has been that the state must finish the Klamath Basin Adjudication (KBA) on schedule. In our view the Department did this. The other area where I believe there is agreement is that the state must equitably enforce the Final Order of Determination that was issued earlier this month. In a basin that has had virtually no state regulation of surface water, this is a significant step and will require meaningful attention from the state to make the transition as fair as possible to all basin water interests. In our view, having a determination is only as good as the state's ability to equitably enforce it.

Need for an Assistant Klamath County Water Master

The magnitude of work related to the Klamath County Watermaster's position has increased substantially with the release of the Order of Determination. Again, in an area of the state where water is arguably the most contentious, divisive and high profile of all issues, we think it is critical that the Department establish its presence and begin the long process of educating the landowners and the public about the Order and handling the challenges that will inevitably arise in a constructive way. As of March 7, 2013, the Department is responsible for regulating water in the Klamath Basin. In addition to the watermaster himself, we believe it is important that an additional qualified and competent person be in place as soon as possible. This person will need to get to know the area and understand many

different systems. He or she will need to develop relationships with landowners and other entities including the federal Bureau of Reclamation and the Klamath Tribes.

Continued Need for Permit Review

Because of the complex nature of the water issues in the Basin, there is a tremendous need for as much operational flexibility as is possible. One component of this flexibility is the capability to sustainably use the groundwater resource in times of shortage. There are different types of permits for groundwater use that have been issued by OWRD and some applications are pending. We support adequate departmental staffing to work through issues related to permit review and ultimately issuance of certificates in order to provide maximum flexibility (consistent with state law). Related, OWRD staff resources are needed to work through any and all issues related to a landowner's or an irrigation district's ability to conduct water transfers in times of shortage. In recent past years, OWRD's assistance with this type of activity has been invaluable.

Water Supply Development Program

While perhaps not specific at this time to the Klamath Basin, KWUA fully supports increased investigation and development of the State's water supplies as provided in the Governor's proposed budget.

We appreciate the difficult task ahead of you as appropriators and we recognize the magnitude of the decisions that you and your committee face related to the state budget. We thank you for the opportunity to offer our input into this specific department's budget for the upcoming biennium.

Respectfully,



Greg Addington
Executive Director

cc:

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

Co-Chair Representative Ben Unger
Co-Chair Senator Chris Edwards
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Representative Jules Bailey
Representative Bruce Hanna

OWRD Director, Phil Ward



March 22, 2013

Douglas W. MacDougal
503.241.2656
dmacdougal@martenlaw.com

Phil Ward, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: *OWRD's Budget*

Dear Phil:

I write to ask you to communicate my support for the Governor's proposed budget for the Oregon Water Resources Department in the upcoming hearings in the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

As a lawyer engaged full-time in the water and natural resources arena, my clients are all water users. I have for years represented irrigation districts, ports, ranches and municipalities. They and their patrons and customers depend *vitaly* upon water to provide the products that support Oregon's economy. These water users need an efficient, well-funded, and responsive water resources agency with whom they deal. Because water is critical for all business activity, a financially hamstrung agency will inevitably hamper economic prosperity and growth in Oregon.

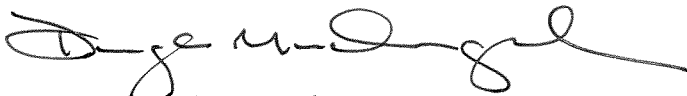
We all realize that all state agencies have had to bear reductions in recent years. But we also know that OWRD is more dependent than many upon the general fund. As that fund has shrunk in recent years to pay for other priorities in the State, such as education and prisons, the department's funds have been disproportionately reduced relative to other agencies. And these reductions have disconcertingly occurred at a time of an increasing need to boost core programs to deal with ever more complex water resource issues intertwined with water quality, listed fish species, climate change, adjudications, Tribal water needs, groundwater declines, inadequate water supplies, technical challenges in data collection, and more. Without strong financial support from the legislature, backlogs will grow, monitoring and inspections will decline, routine water right permitting and transfers will be delayed, and Oregon's economy will pay the price

The public may not realize just how strapped the department is. A few specifics help to illustrate the case. Some may be aware that since the 1990s, State-funded staff at OWRD has declined by something like 16 individuals – a huge hit for an agency of its size. But how many people know that one District 9 watermaster is responsible for regulating and distributing water across *11,000 square miles* of land? This is an astonishing statistic. Or

that in northwest Oregon, the District 16 watermaster is responsible for several *hundred* dams that need routine inspection and site visits?

One can describe many more needs that have been shorted in these lean times. The point is, if OWRD is pared to the bone it will not be able to manage its existing legal responsibilities, much less implement the newly adopted Integrated Water Resource Strategy that is important to the future of our State. All of us in this field believe that it is critical that OWRD be allocated the necessary resources to do its job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas MacDougal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Douglas MacDougal



Oregon Association of Water Utilities

935 N. Main St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-837-1212 • Fax 503-837-1213

Serving Oregon's Water & Wastewater Utilities since 1977

March 21, 2013

TO: Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

RE: Support for the Oregon Water Resources Department Budget, SB 5547

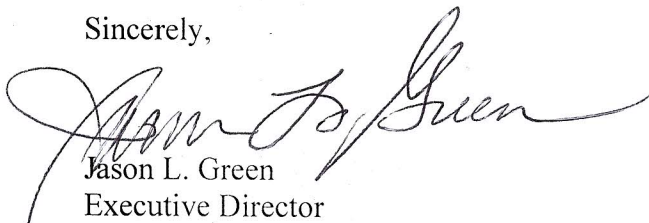
Dear Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger, and member of the subcommittee:

The Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) is writing to voice our support for the Oregon Water Resources budget, SB 5547. OAWU is a nonprofit, independent association of water and wastewater utilities. Formed in 1977, we represent water utilities' interest and provide onsite technical assistance to our 455 regular members, 97 associate members, and 153 individual members. The membership consists of public and private water and wastewater systems such as municipalities, associations, special districts, mobile home parks, schools, campgrounds and industry. OAWU is a state affiliate of the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). NRWA is one of America's largest and strongest voices for rural and small systems, representing over 26,000 water and wastewater members.

OAWU was an early and proactive supporter of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). With the adoption of the IRWS in 2012, it is imperative to continue moving forward on implementing the reasonable and well-founded water policy that keeps our communities healthy, protects and enhances our environmental resources, and helps create jobs. To do this, the Oregon Water Resources Department must have adequate funding to manage Oregon's diverse water demands.

Oregon and OAWU water and wastewater utilities require the services and support of Oregon Water Resources Department. We believe the Oregon Water Resources Department should be funded through an equitable combination of fee, general funds and other sources. We urge you increase funding for this valuable Department.

Sincerely,



Jason L. Green
Executive Director





OREGON WATER UTILITIES COUNCIL
Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association
P.O. Box 10148, Eugene, OR 97440-2148
Office/Fax: 541-685-7385
E-mail: brad.taylor@eweb.org

March 26, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair and
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Water Resource Department FY 2013-15 Budget

The Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) is a subcommittee of the America Water Works Association and represents over 40 Oregon municipal water suppliers representing over 80% of the municipal water supplied in Oregon. The Council very much appreciates the work of your Department in managing Oregon's water resources needs. OWUC would like to express its support for the Oregon Water Resource Department budget for FY 2013- 2015.

OWUC has and will continue to support the Department's core function and the budget needed to complete this work. In regards to the water right management fee, OWUC believes that this will continue to be met with significant opposition and that individual municipalities will most likely be split on this issue. Therefore, the Council's position regarding the Water Right Management fee remains neutral.

In addition, OWUC strongly supports statewide efforts to reallocate federal storage projects. This water is critical to the economic and ecological health of Oregon's future. It is critical that the Department have an adequately funded staff position, and matching funds, to ensure Oregon's full participation in this project.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the OWUC Chair, Brad Taylor of the Eugene Water and Electric Board at (541) 685-7385.

Sincerely,

Brad Taylor
Chair, Oregon Water Utility Council
Phone: (541) 685-7385
Email: brad.taylor@eweb.org

To Whom It May Concern:

Ref: OWRD Budget Concerns

Water – One of Oregon’s most important natural resources. If there is no water, there will be no food for everyone to enjoy. We, as humans will be going on the endangered species lists.

This department, OWRD is important. Therefore, all people in the State should contribute to the funding to keep OWRD going and not cut funds to this department and their management of water throughout the State.

I support the funding to maintain the Watermaster’s office within Umatilla Basin. They help keep the calculation, correspondents, and future needs between all the water users in the Basin.

The Umatilla Basin is one part of the State that needs more scientific monitoring on wells and surface water for future supplies that are being requested.

Here in the Umatilla Basin the OWRD works hard on maintaining the rights and rule of Water Laws. Therefore, OWRD is very beneficial to everyone in this State.

Thank You

Ray Kopacz

Manager of Stanfield Irrigation District

Farm Land Owner

Small Business owner in Hermiston OR.



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main 503.224.3380
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March 25, 2013

DAVID E. FILIPPI
Direct (503) 294-9529
defilippi@stoel.com

VIA HAND-DELIVERY AT HEARING

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

I am a partner with the law firm of Stoel Rives LLP. Since 1996, my practice has centered on water rights and project permitting in Oregon, and I currently represent agricultural, industrial, and municipal water users in nearly every basin within our state. I also represent a number of irrigation districts and water delivery organizations throughout the state. That said, the views expressed in this letter are solely my own. I am not writing on behalf of any particular client, nor do I seek to express the views of my clients.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 5547 to underscore the vital economic functions performed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (the "Department"). At a time when the state is looking to both local governments and the private sector to engage in projects to rebuild and stimulate our economy, failing to adequately fund the Department could slow or even eliminate the ability of the state to timely and efficiently approve and permit projects. Such a choice is counterproductive.

Whether the Department is being asked to process applications for new water rights, water right transfers (that propose to change the authorized type or place of use of water), allocations of conserved water (that propose to return water instream and potentially free up water for new projects), new storage projects, or municipal water management and conservation plans, the Department's review and public approval process is necessary and essential to public and private sector investment in our state. Proposed projects typically reviewed by the Department range the full spectrum of projects, from the licensing of new hydroelectric operations, to the construction of new industrial facilities, to the development of new municipal supplies, to the piping and lining of irrigation ditches, to simple changes in the irrigation of one field to another. But the common thread for all of these projects is that they involve the use or delivery of water, and they



Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
March 25, 2013
Page 2

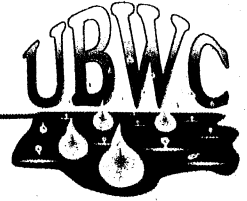
all require careful and review by the Department. Simply put, sufficient staffing and timely processing are vital to Oregon businesses, farms, and industries.

If there were ever a direct link between the funding of a key state agency like the Department and the potential for new investments of capital and the creation of new jobs (for both construction and the continued operation and maintenance of existing projects), this is it. As I am personally involved in many such projects, I urge the Subcommittee to consider the Department's vital role in stimulating the state's economy and support Senate Bill 5547.

Very truly yours,

David E. Filippi

Umatilla Basin Water Commission



March 22, 2013

**Commission
Members**

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, H-377
Salem, OR 97301

Confederated
Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian
Reservation

Re: Support for Oregon Water Resources Department recommended budget

Westland
Irrigation District

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

Morrow County

The Umatilla Basin Water Commission supports the Governor's recommended 2013-15 budget for the Oregon Water Resources Department.

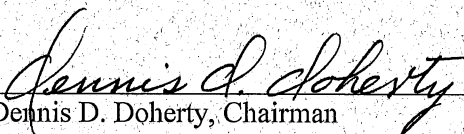
Umatilla County

We are very sensitive to the many responsibilities of the Department, and especially to the importance of the additional commitments arising from the newly adopted Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Our Board also supports the process that is inherent in the 2013-15 significant changes packages. We have not taken a position on any of the proposed bills outlined in the significant changes packages but we are supportive of the transparent process at which they have and will be vetted.

Thank you for your consideration and for the state's best efforts to protect, manage and optimize the benefits of Oregon's water resources.

By:


Dennis D. Doherty, Chairman

By:


JR Cook, Executive Director

Office of the Executive Director
216 SE 4th Street - Suite 33
Pendleton OR 97801
Ph: 541-278-6310
Fax: 541-278-5463

Administrative Office
C/O Westland Irrigation District
PO Box 944
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Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Senator,

March 22, 2013

The Walla Walla River Irrigation District would like to take the opportunity to express our support for the Oregon Water Resources Department budget, with the exception of Package #108. Package #108 relies on the passage of SB 217 which would implement a water right certificate fee for every water holder in the state of Oregon. While the Walla Walla River Irrigation District does not categorically oppose a water right fee, we do oppose the fee as proposed in SB 217.

The Walla Walla River Irrigation District has enjoyed a long, cooperative relationship with the Oregon Water Resource Department staff in Umatilla County. The Umatilla Basin and Walla Walla Basin are quite unique in that we have faced our water challenges head on, addressing the needs of farmers and fish. We have been the leaders in cooperative conservation in Oregon and have been successful in large part to our close working relationship with the Oregon Water Resources Department staff.

Sincerely,
Teresa Kilmer
District Manager
Walla Walla River Irrigation District