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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

April 10, 2013

Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair

Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Oregon State Legislature

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Deschutes Water Alliance is writing to express our support of SB 839-1. The Deschutes Water Alliance (DWA) is a regional forum established in 2004 to address long-term water supply goals in the Deschutes Basin. Membership of the DWA includes the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the cities and counties of the Deschutes Basin, seven irrigation districts, private water companies and the Deschutes River Conservancy.

The Deschutes Basin has been at the forefront of implementing integrated water supply projects for over a decade. Through these collaborative efforts, we have made significant progress towards restoring stream flows and sustainably meeting existing and new water supply needs. This work is imperative because meeting these collective demands for water in the Deschutes Basin is essential to a strong Central Oregon economy.

Despite the progress made, much water supply work remains to be done in the Deschutes Basin. The Deschutes Basin stakeholders have already identified numerous projects that can result in thousands of acre-feet of water supply. However, before these projects can be implemented, a comprehensive integrated basin plan and related modeling effort must be completed to assure all stakeholders their interests will be addressed. As a result, we have chosen to initiate a Bureau of Reclamation "Basin Study," starting in 2014. The end product will be a federal level programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the identified water supply projects that will be eligible for future federal, state and local implementation funding.

As a result, the DWA appreciates the efforts of the work group that developed SB 839-1, which is focused on the development of new water supplies for instream and out-of-stream needs. The Deschutes Basin stakeholders need \$750,000 for the required matching funds to complete a Bureau of Reclamation "Basin Study" and we understand these funds may be available under SB 839-1. Funding obtained under the provisions of SB-839-1 could enable the Deschutes Basin Study to proceed as planned.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Unger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Unger

Chairman, Deschutes Water Alliance