

**DESCHUTES
WATER
ALLIANCE** 

MEMBERS

April 10, 2013

CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF WARM SPRINGS

Brad Witt, Chair

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair

CROOK COUNTY

Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature

CENTRAL OREGON I.D.

Salem, Oregon 97301

NORTH UNIT I.D.

OCHOCO I.D.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

THREE SISTERS I.D.

SWALLEY I.D.

ARNOLD I.D.

CROOK COUNTY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Deschutes Water Alliance is writing to express our support of HB 3358-1. 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.

CITY OF BEND

CITY OF REDMOND

CITY OF PRINEVILLE

CITY OF MADRAS

CITY OF SISTERS

CITY OF CULVER

CITY OF LA PINE

CITY OF METOLIUS

AVION WATER COMPANY

DESCHUTES VALLEY
WATER DISTRICT

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.

HB 3358-1 may provide a mechanism for Deschutes Basin stakeholders to obtain the necessary matching funds to complete the Bureau of Reclamation "Basin Study." In addition, the Governor's office, the Water Resources Department, and many of the key water stakeholders, have been developing SB 839-1, which is a "Water Supply Development" bill. In the meantime, HB 3358-1 should be preserved as a potential funding mechanism for the Deschutes Study.

ADVISORY MEMBERS

OREGON WATER RESOURCES
COMMISSION

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

OREGON WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

Sincerely,

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Alan Unger
Chairman, Deschutes Water Alliance