

**From:** Jerek Hodge  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 5:25 PM  
**To:** Reiley Beth  
**Subject:** SB 217

Greetings,

I was forwarded information about legislation in the Oregon Senate to impose a \$100 yearly fee on water rights. As I family that is not fortunate enough to live in a water district, I get the privilege of spending countless hours and significant sums of money to maintain a water system for my family and our livestock.

This fee may not seem like a large sum, but I work as an engineer with small communities to upgrade their water systems, and this sum represents about 2 months of water service for ratepayers in many of them. In my case, I have no alternative to paying this new fee for what appears to be no net services.

I am not familiar with the background of this Senate bill, but my impression of it is as a new revenue source or yet another attempt to impose greater water rights restrictions on those who need to use them the most.

Another item I would like the committee to consider is the number of people using unregistered water systems with no water right. Especially here in western Oregon where water is abundant but highly regulated, adding a fee of this sum may drive some users to violate water use law instead of allowing the state to track where water is available.

Thank you,

Jerek Hodge