

# SB 217

- Unbalanced
  - 80,361 non-exempt use water rights in Oregon
    - Over 10,000 owned by WRD and Federal Government
      - Oregon can't tax the Federal Government
      - WRD won't tax itself
    - Remaining users will be paying for the Government agencies
    - Farms can't recover their costs in the same way a city or other business can
    - Exempt uses won't be subject to fee – Why?

# SB 217

- Inefficient

- \$2,000,000 to raise \$12,000,000

- » [www.martenlaw.com](http://www.martenlaw.com)

- Doesn't necessarily address staffing issues
      - Could end up in general fund
      - Can this be 'farmed' out to a private company for less?
      - Necessary nexus between what is being taxed and the service provided?

# SB 217

- Perpetual and Limitless
  - \$100 seems minimal but the door is open for fee/tax increases
  - \$1000 cap could easily be raised
    - Farmers as a constituency are easily taxed/assessed because of our small numbers demographically

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- Expensive
  - Farming demographics are already dismal
    - Average age of a farmer is 57 years old
      - » USEPA report
    - Farm land and production prices, along with estate taxes, make a start-up farm extraordinarily expensive and difficult
  - Consider the range of fees, taxes, permits
    - Static level checking, SB 217 compliance - \$1300-2300/year
      - for water rights I have already paid for
    - **\$19,450.00 paid by us in one year just for fees, taxes, permits**

# SB 217

- Hurts my ability to farm and provide for my family
- Overburdens some water right holders and unduly favors others
- Proverbial “slippery slope”
- No additional or recognizable service provided for the tax I have to pay