



February 14, 2013

To: Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Esquivel and McKeown, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

RE: Support for HB 2257

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2257. The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) supports this bill and the -2 amendments which would allow the Water Resources Department to change the names and addresses on a water right certificate at the request of the holder of that right.

When property with an appurtenant water right is transferred or sold, it is commonly understood that the water right is also transferred or sold to the new owner. However, there is currently no authority for the Department to update the name or contact information on the water right certificate to reflect the new ownership.

Allowing for these certificates to be updated to accurately reflect current certificate ownership and contact information will improve upon the Department's ability to effectively communicate with the current water right holder and provides increased legal protection to water right holders should the ownership of that right come into question.

LOC appreciates the Water Resources Department's introduction of this legislation and would urge the Committee's support of HB 2257 and the -2 amendments.