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April 30, 2013

**VIA E-MAIL**

Mr. Brad Witt , Chair  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Salem OR 97301

RE: SB 199A: Spilt Season In-Stream Leasing

Dear Chair Witt:

I am writing in support of SB 199A, relating to in-stream water right transfers and, in particular, extending a sunset provision for the “split-season” leasing program. In working with clients on water rights matters throughout the state, I know from personal experience how valuable the in-stream leasing program has become as a tool for more effective water management and to help facilitate collaborative, voluntary efforts to restore in-stream flows.

Although I have supported eliminating the sunset provision entirely, I encourage approval of this measure that would authorize a continuation of the program for the next 10 years. The bill also clarifies and strengthens existing practices by the Oregon Water Resources Department for protecting against injury to other water right holders when reviewing applications for in-stream leases.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I urge the Committee's approval of this measure that extends and clarifies a useful tool for more effective water management.

Sincerely,



Martha O. Pagel

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cc: Committee Members (*via e-mail*)  
Rep. Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Brian Clem  
Rep. Wayne Krieger  
Rep. Jeff Reardon  
Rep. Jim Thompson  
Rep. Ben Unger  
Rep. Gail Whitsett  
Brenda Bateman, OWRD  
Maria Kelly, Staff  
Beth Patrino, Staff

