

PLEASE OPPOSE HB2259

March 14, 2013

HB2259 increases and creates some new fees charge by Water Resources Department for almost every water permit. This bill will cost more for any citizen or business that has an issue with water rights. **HB2259** increases or adds new fees totaling \$14,860 mostly for applications and some appeal processes. It doesn't increase any workload so in a depressed economy, this isn't the fiscally responsible thing to do. **HB2259** doesn't add any programs, but this kind of fee increases grows government. Increased fees will depress and affect local communities that have any water issues. Increased fees will depress industries needing water permits.

Certain water rights to use the lakes and running streams were “hereby granted” by the State of Oregon as a “public necessity” and a “beneficial use” for mining purposes in the (1899 Act) and partly codified in ORS 541.110 and cannot be denied or require permitting to the Federal mining claimant. The State granted that right away.

There is no provision in **HB2259** for ODWR Limited License required for miners to use small amounts of water from a stream to run a High-Banker or a Power Sluice using Administrative Rules could rise from \$250.00 to \$300.00 or more according to Mr. Dwight French of ODWR if this bill passes. The Limited License for this kind of mining needs to be exempted for minimal water usage. The Limited License is site specific to each stream and if a pump is moved up or down stream you are required to pay \$25.00 for each location change. Most off stream small scale miners are considered Mobil source using ODEQ 600 Water Pollution Control Facility Permit. The cost of ODWR Limited license would be cost prohibitive for multiple locations in Oregon waters. The Limited License is exclusive to individual miners. If a miner wanted to use all 10 of a mining association Federal claims annually; that would amount to \$2,500.00 for each member.

Thank you for listening to my testimony and please include this for the public record..

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