



HB 4045

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee February 4, 2014

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports HB 4045, a bill that would re-instate continuing education requirements for well constructors.

Existing law governing continuing education requirements for well construction expired (via sunset) on January 2, 2014. HB 4045 reinstates the requirement that well constructor's complete continuing education credits for license renewal, as well reinstating the Well Constructor Continuing Education Committee (Committee).

Continuing education requirements are critical to ensuring that well constructors have the skills to properly construct, alter, maintain or abandon wells.

Stresses upon the groundwater resources of this state are becoming more complex. Properly constructed and maintained wells are critical to the state's overall management of Oregon's water resources. Properly constructed and maintained wells help protect the public at large, as well as other surface and groundwater right holders, including cities, farmers, industry and fish and wildlife. In a nutshell, continuing education requirements are vital in helping the OWRD meet the state's groundwater management goals.

WaterWatch urges the committee to pass HB 4045.

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