

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** Patrino Beth  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:25 AM  
**To:** Raszka Shelley  
**Subject:** FW: Commenting on HB 4044

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**From:** Brandan [<mailto:brandan@flyingtsalers.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:09 PM  
**To:** Patrino Beth  
**Subject:** Commenting on HB 4044

I am writing to support Senate Bill 1572 which I understand is also called HB 4044.

A few months ago OWRD had a meeting in a small town near me and explained how they are planning on shutting off all wells within one mile of most rivers, streams and lakes in the area. Considering that no one from OWRD has been on my families ranch in over 25 years I was surprised they wanted to turn off our wells. When asked why they wanted to turn them off, they explained that while they had not actually stepped foot on our land or in fact any land within a few miles they had created a computer model that proves that our two wells are drying up the river.

In my case my family has two wells. One of them a free flowing artesian well. How a artesian well is stealing water from the river I can not figure out as the artesian well water comes out of the ground with no pumping and is put on the top of a hill. How can that steal water from a river over 3/8 of a mile and more than a 1/8 mile from the bottom of the hill? Last I checked if things were connected water would not be going up hill. Oh and the well water is more than 20 degrees warmer than the river water.

The other well is one that is pumped, but there are also reasons to believe that it is not connected to the near by stream.

As things were explained to me by Tom Paul, OWRD will soon be mailing out post cards telling hundreds of people that they can not use their wells, because of the computer model which they think may be correct. If we object, we can sue OWRD. Personally that sounds wrong.

As I understand HB 4044 it requires OWRD to study each well. If they can prove a connection then they can send out their post cards. If they can not prove a connection then they leave a well alone.

This last year when OWRD shut off the surface water the only thing that allowed us to raise our cows was the fact that we had a well. With the drought we are unlikely to have surface water this year either. If they then shut off our well, things are going to be very bad. While I doubt we would go broke the first year, we probably would the second time they did it.

In the end I doubt that you care about me and my family. Instead I ask that you think of people in your area. Do you want the status quo where OWRD can sit in Salem create a computer model of questionable accuracy and then start turning your neighbors wells off without even studying the given wells or even proving that their model is correct? For that matter how about the wells that supply water for your cities?

Instead I propose that you support HB 4044 which requires OWRD to study what they are doing before they do it. I believe it will save many smaller farmers and ranchers in the state as it has OWRD prove there is a problem instead of forcing the small land owner to go to court and try and prove there is not a problem. If nothing else this will help OWRD and people get along.

Thanks for your time,

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