Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to ask to you to make changes to HB4015 to protect Oregon's public waters, lands, and air and ensure broad stakeholder participation and transparent public process in accordance with Oregon's community values. Specifically, I am asking you to adopt the -2 and the -4 amendments.

My concerns and requested changes to HB4015 are as follows:

*HB 4015 directs the regional advisory committees to establish "regional priorities" without any opportunity for public notice and comment. This is counter to Oregon's community values. Please correct this by amending HB 4015 to include robust public notice and comment provisions.

*The Regional Advisory Committees under HB 4015 as introduced are not balanced to reflect the diversity of interests directly impacted by the Regional Solutions Program. Please address this by adding two seats to the regional advisory committees, one for conservation groups and another for citizen/social justice organizations.

*HB 4015 directs all agencies that have loan/grant programs to "prioritize funding" for regional solutions, regardless of agency mission. This is clearly inappropriate. Please remove the requirement that agencies "prioritize" and fully exempt all natural resource agencies from this directive. Ensure that for remaining agencies, the regional priority must meet the standards of the applicable grant or loan fund.

*HB 4015 directs that agencies "align priorities and purposes to promote community and economic development" regardless of agency mission (Section 2(2)). This language improperly co-opts natural resource agency missions. Please exempt natural resources agencies from these requirements.

*HB 4015 does not include any legislative oversight. Please ensure a meaningful role for the Legislature in selection of Regional Solutions Committees that encourages balanced representation and sets criteria for selection of Regional Priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry White