



## **HB 2400**

### **Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water**

**March 3, 2015**

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 2400**

What HB 2400 does: HB 2400 (and ensuing amendments), amend SB 839 (2013) to correct language that was inconsistent with the original intent of the statute. It also ensures that the Reports that resulted from the Seasonally Varying Flow Task Force and the Governance Task Force meet reporting requirements of SB 839.

WaterWatch of Oregon served on both the Seasonally Varying Flow Task Force and the Governance Task Force. HB 2400 and ensuing amendments originate from those groups.

The Seasonally Varying Flow (SVF) Task Force recognized the existing language of SB 839 which directed (for projects seeking state funding under SB 839) SVF requirements to apply to the storage of water "outside of the irrigation season" in-artfully captured the original intent behind SB 839. The intent was that SVF standards apply during the time a project stored water. In some cases, water is available for storage during the irrigation season (i.e. early spring). HB 2400 clarifies SVF standards apply for storage of water "during periods when water is available for storage."

Similarly, the Governance Task Force agreed that the existing language of SB 839 did not capture the original intent that SVF requirements apply to new storage projects that are seeking funding under SB 839 (regardless of water right permit status). Amendments to HB 2400 agreed to by the Governance Task Force last week will clarify this point.

Conclusion: WaterWatch urges the Committee to support HB 2400.

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