



**DEERHORN COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION  
41789 MADRONE ST  
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478-8507**

**DEERHORN COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION AND THE  
RAINBOW WATER DISTRICT TESTIMONY ON HB 2579  
BEFORE THE RURAL COMMUNITIES, LAND USE AND WATER COMMITTEE  
DATE: MARCH 3, 2015**

Rainbow Water District (a domestic water supply district) and the Deerhorn Community Water Association (a private water corporation) both urge a **DO PASS vote on HB 2579**.

**What the Bill Does:** This bill amends ORS 264 to allow Domestic Water Supply Districts to enter into contracts with private water corporations (specifically cooperative corporations under ORS 62 and mutual benefit corporations under ORS 65) to provide administrative and maintenance services.

**What Problem Are We Trying to Fix?** Private water corporations provide domestic water to many of Oregon's unincorporated communities. They are typically small and sometimes need assistance from nearby Domestic Water Supply Districts, who have professional staff, maintenance expertise and greater resources. Presently, ORS 264 does *not* allow Oregon's Domestic Water Supply Districts to provide this kind of contracted help, even for a reasonable fee. This is because Domestic Water Supply Districts have no statutory authority to enter into such contracts. To have such authority, it must be *specifically listed* in the districts' authorizing statutes, ORS 264.

**How this Bill Will Help Oregon Communities:** Supporting this bill would allow Domestic Water Supply Districts to contract with private water corporations to supply much-needed administrative or maintenance services. It would encourage working partnerships between the public and private entities that provide our communities with safe and reliable drinking water. It encourages these entities to share their resources and operate in a more cost effective manner for Oregon's citizens. Lastly, it allows Oregon's Domestic Water Supply Districts to share technology and the expertise of their state-certified water system operators with smaller neighboring systems.

**Questions?** We would be happy to answer questions or share additional information.

*Don Henry, President  
Deerhorn Community Water Association  
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Springfield, OR 97478  
541-896-3236*

*Jamie Porter, Superintendent  
Rainbow Water District  
PO Box 8, 1550 N. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
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February 27, 2015

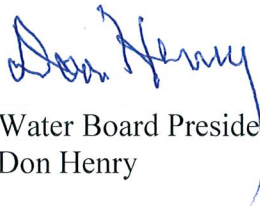
Chair Brian Clem, and Members of the  
House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Clem and Committee Members;

Deerhorn Community Water Association requests your support to pass HB2579 because:

1. The Oregon Drinking Water Section has many stringent rules and regulations that are sometimes hard to follow. We have done our best to meet their criteria, but always have doubts. We have provided safe potable water to approximately 120 homes in our service area for the last 46 years.
2. The members of our Association are aging and it's very difficult to find people with expertise in operating and managing a water system. Therefore we want to be able to contract for services to continue our service to the Deerhorn community.
3. Our organization is small and we don't have the equipment or manpower to properly maintain or upgrade our system as needed.

The passage of HB2579 would allow us (an ORS 62 organization) to enter into a contract with Rainbow Water District (an ORS 264 organization) for both administrative and maintenance services as needed in the near and long term.



Water Board President  
Don Henry



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February 26, 2015

Chair Brian Clem, and Members  
House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2579

Dear Representative Clem and Members of the Committee,

Rainbow Water District requests your support for HB 2579, a bill that would authorize our public utility, as a domestic water supply district, to contract with the Deerhorn Community Water Association, a private corporation that was formed to supply water to a rural subdivision. There are more than one hundred small water associations across the state, and we believe this bill could provide many others the optional ability to partner with a neighboring water district.

For 21 years, Rainbow Water District has had an intergovernmental agreement with the Marcola Water District to provide water system management, accounting, repairs and maintenance. We are able to do this as both water utilities were formed as ORS 264 domestic water supply districts. Deerhorn Community Water Association would like to contract with us for the same type of services, but ORS 264 does not specifically allow this.

While a small water utility may hire a licensed operator to take water samples and manage the system, or a contractor to perform repairs, or an accounting firm to provide billing functions, our medium-sized water district is able to offer the entire package. We would benefit from some supplemental revenue, and the opportunity to motivate our employees with a variety of learning opportunities, and Deerhorn would benefit from the resources and expertise of a larger organization with 24/7 monitoring and response capabilities.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamie Porter".

Jamie Porter  
Superintendent