

TO: The Senate Committee on the Environment & Natural Resources

FROM: Deschutes County Commissioner Alan Unger, Co-Chair, AOC Water Policy Committee  
Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope, Co-Chair, AOC Water Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 266/Place-Based Planning.

DATE: March 9, 2015

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing all 36 county governments in Oregon, we express our **whole-hearted support for Senate Bill 266**.

AOC is a hands-on participant in the shaping, adoption, and implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) and Senate Bill 839 (2013), the Water Supply Development Program. Each of these laws has as an integral part the concept of Place-Based (regional) Planning, which will permit communities in a watershed or other appropriate region to convene the full range of stakeholders to conduct local water use and development planning.

Any effort at Place-Based Planning needs the direct support of the State Water Resources Department, for guidance, tools for a successful process, and grants to provide communities with the initial financial capacity to cover facilitation, logistical, and technical costs.

SB 266 clarifies that WRD has the authority to provide this support. It is critical to the IWRS, SB 839, and to the future of a clean, plentiful water supply for the State.

**Please send SB 266 to the full Senate with a do-pass recommendation.**