

Chairman Edwards and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my position on the above proposed bills. My family and I are owners and operators of the Flying T Ranch, a third generation family ranch located on the former Klamath Reservation in Sprague River Valley. We have 1864 water rights: the best in the Klamath Basin. The recent water adjudication and so called "water agreements" will spell the end of our family enterprise if left in their present form. Supporting this extortion by entities beyond our control will eliminate our ranch, its tax base, and the \$500,000 worth of local economic activity that we generate yearly. Multiply this by the many other ranchers in the basin and you can see the Klamath economy will be decimated. We live 250 miles from Salem and are in the middle of calving time. We have been working around the clock for the past month and have another month to go before the calving is over. None of us can be spared to come to Salem as our calves lives depend on us. This is why representative government matter to us. All of our local and state elected officials have lived here many years and are intimately involved and knowledgeable about the Klamath Basin adjudication fiasco and the so called "settlements." Our board of commissioners was largely elected on a platform opposing these "settlements" and sent a letter to that effect to the U.S. Congress three months ago, asking that these "agreements" not be funded. Senator Doug Whitsett and Representative Gail Whitsett have both been elected multiple times by wide margins. They represent the will of the citizens of the Klamath Basin. They are in the know about the situation here and have our complete support. In my absence at your hearing in Salem they have my proxy and completely and accurately represent our views.

Thank you for your considerations.

Bruce S. Topham
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