

Senate Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources
Salem, OR

March 23, 2015

Dear Sirs:

We are sorry that we were unable to attend today's session in person. Please accept our written testimony.

In the summary of The Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement is a paragraph entitled "Funding and Authorization" that states "A key element of program success (for all of the program elements) is continued funding for the Economic Development Program, Water Use Agreements and the Riparian Management Agreements. The Agreement will not become permanent until long term funding is provided to fully implement these programs. Short term funding is being provided by a consortium of federal and state agencies. However, long term funding, and other elements of the Agreement, will require federal legislation, including legislation and appropriations implementing the KBRA and the KHSA. This agreement implements several foundational elements of the KBRA."

Since the KBRA has not yet seen any federal legislation or appropriations don't you think that SB 206, SB 264 and SB 265 are somewhat premature?

We are not only opposed to the KBRA, the KHSA, and the UKBCA but also SB 206, SB 264 and SB 265 since those bills are giving the impression that the above agreements have already been legislated and appropriated.

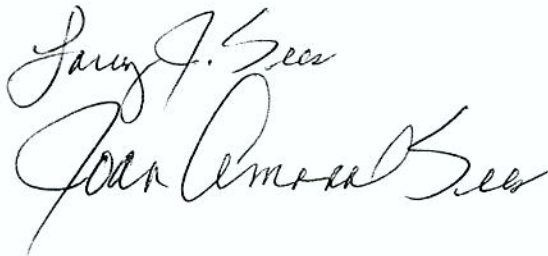
All of these bills that change the laws of the OWRD to match the wording of the KBRA and the KHSA are again premature. Laws are being changed to accommodate the KBRA and the KHSA when they have not yet gone through.

As for SB 265 specifically, the \$3.4 million is a drop in the bucket as to what is needed. The additional amount to be estimated by the State Treasurer for payment of bond-related issues is not included. What if the bond-related costs exceed the gross proceeds of lottery bonds sold?

Also let it be known that Senator Doug Whitsett and Representative Gail Whitsett position on the KBRA, the KHSA and the UKBCA represent the majority of the irrigators in the upper Klamath Basin even though you may be hearing otherwise.

Thank you,

Larry & Joan Sees
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Handwritten signatures of Larry J. Sees and Joan Ann Sees.