

Upon careful review of the aforementioned Senate Bills, I am strongly opposed to the passage of these three bills. These Bills are based upon junk science, disregard to the taxpayers/ratepayers who will be funding these agreements, disregard for the federal process which has not been completed, and provides additional powers and decision making to the Oregon Water Resources Department Director, which I believe would not be beneficial to our county.

As former Vice-President of the Klamath Bucket Brigade/Relief Fund and former Klamath County Commissioner I have spent much time and effort fighting for continued water rights for our agricultural community. I am very concerned that, while we seem to be trying to buy out the agricultural community there will come a time when the money dries up (the current practice of paying farmers for not farming) and our farmers will be left without their given water rights. As an example, this is consistent with the P.I.L.T. and Secured Rural School Funding that we have lost or is under scrutiny.

I strongly support the position of Representative Gail Whitsett, Senator Doug Whitsett, Klamath County Commissioners Tom Mallams and Jim Bellet and a large contingency of Klamath County residents. After all, these officials were overwhelmingly elected partly because of their stance on these agreements.

I strongly suggest you vote "NO" on these bills.

Thank for your consideration.

William R. Brown
Six Generations in Klamath County
Former Educator