



# POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE \* DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3174  
503-623-8173 \* FAX 503-623-0896

Commissioners  
**CRAIG A. POPE**  
**MIKE AINSWORTH**  
**JENNIFER L. WHEELER**

**GREGORY P. HANSEN**  
Administrative Officer

April 6, 2015

Co-Chair Senator Richard Devlin and Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayfield  
Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Funding for Water Resources Budget

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield:

Polk County Board of Commissioners wants to provide testimony in support of the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) in the Governor's recommended budget (GRB).

Polk County government has been a recent recipient of state investments that provide the necessary financial assistance to facilitate an effective planning process for regional water storage and distribution opportunities under SB1069 [2008], and hopes to be engaged with requests to finance projects under SB839 [2013] in the near future.

Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope has been an Association of Counties (AOC) Water Policy Steering committee Co-Chair for 3 years and has worked hard to help lead AOC, WRD and our County to a solid path for implementation of local water plans or projects. Polk County is invested in place based planning strategy to help conserve and appropriately allocate our water resources for the future, but we cannot do our job without an adequately staffed WRD.

The GRB outlines a proposal, enhanced by the WRD policy option package requests that accompany it to provide the funding that has been sorely needed to staff WRD at minimum levels required to accommodate the water policies that Oregonians expect local governments to implement. With this funding and subsequent staffing we can start to see real change in local planning and project efforts that will impact the water supply and distribution systems for future generations of Polk County citizens and all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and we hope you will see the need as we do for supporting a robust WRD budget.

Respectfully,

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Ainsworth, Chair

Craig Pope

Jennifer Wheeler