



**DEERHORN COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION
41789 MADRONE ST
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97478-8507**

**DEERHORN COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION AND THE
RAINBOW WATER DISTRICT TESTIMONY ON HB 2579
BEFORE THE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE: APRIL 29, 2015**

Rainbow Water District (a domestic water supply district) and the Deerhorn Community Water Association (a private water corporation) both urge a **DO PASS vote on HB 2579**.

What the Bill Does: This bill amends ORS 264 to allow Domestic Water Supply Districts to enter into contracts with private water corporations (specifically cooperative corporations under ORS 62 and mutual benefit corporations under ORS 65) to provide administrative and maintenance services.

What Problem Are We Trying to Fix? Private water corporations provide domestic water to many of Oregon's unincorporated communities. They are typically small and sometimes need assistance from nearby Domestic Water Supply Districts, who have professional staff, maintenance expertise and greater resources. Presently, ORS 264 does *not* allow Oregon's Domestic Water Supply Districts to provide this kind of contracted help, even for a reasonable fee. This is because Domestic Water Supply Districts have no statutory authority to enter into such contracts. To have such authority, it must be *specifically listed* in the districts' authorizing statutes, ORS 264.

How this Bill Will Help Oregon Communities: Supporting this bill would allow Domestic Water Supply Districts to contract with private water corporations to supply much-needed administrative or maintenance services. It would encourage working partnerships between the public and private entities that provide our communities with safe and reliable drinking water. It encourages these entities to share their resources and operate in a more cost effective manner for Oregon's citizens. Lastly, it allows Oregon's Domestic Water Supply Districts to share technology and the expertise of their state-certified water system operators with smaller neighboring systems.

Questions? We would be happy to answer questions or share additional information.

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