



May 15, 2015

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, and Members of the  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Re: HB 5030 – Water Supply Development Account Funding

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Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of The Freshwater Trust's Board of Directors, our restoration partners, and rivers across the state, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Section 21 of HB 5030, which recapitalizes the Water Supply Development Account established by SB 839 (2013).

The Freshwater Trust is a 501(c)(3) conservation organization that restores freshwater ecosystems throughout Oregon by using collaborative market-based solutions. Since entering its first in-stream lease in 1994, The Freshwater Trust has worked with farmers, ranchers, and other local landowners to improve in-stream flows in several of Oregon's most iconic rivers, such as the John Day and Grande Ronde, and numerous tributaries that support threatened and endangered fish species. We also have been consistently engaged in policy discussions regarding Oregon's water resources. The Freshwater Trust advised the state on crafting its Integrated Water Resources Strategy and recently served on the SB 839 Seasonally Varying Flow and Governance Task Forces and Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

The Freshwater Trust applauds the Legislature for passing SB 839, which established a unique funding program that targets state investment in water supply projects that create economic, social, and environmental benefits. Oregon's water resources are already experiencing harms caused by climate change that put the state's agricultural communities, cities, and freshwater ecosystems at risk. Recapitalizing the Water Supply Development Account will help fund collaborative partnerships between agricultural, municipal, and conservation interests to design and implement innovative solutions to meet these challenges. For example, conserved water projects - such as piping and

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lining leaky canals and upgrading to drip irrigation systems – help irrigators use their water rights more efficiently, thereby making water available for in-stream purposes. Recapitalizing the Water Supply Development Account will help increase the pace and scale of these projects throughout Oregon, resulting in win-win solutions for landowners and freshwater ecosystems.

The Freshwater Trust appreciates the opportunity to testify before you today. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Rob Kirschner  
Staff Attorney