

**From:** [Chuck Humphreys](#)  
**To:** [Rep Clem](#); [Rep Gilliam](#); [Rep Gomberg](#); [Rep Helm](#); [Rep McLane](#); [Rep Post](#); [Rep Witt](#); [Reiley Beth](#); [HRCLUW Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 4102 -- opposition  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:00:44 PM

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Dear Chair Clem and members of the House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water,

I would like to register my opposition to proposed HB 4102 that would create a new funding source for water storage and delivery projects.

First, this new fund is not needed. The lottery-financed fund created in 2013 by SB 839 already supports water storage projects. If more resources are needed for this purpose, the sensible thing to do is simply appropriate additional resources to the existing fund.

Second, this new fund is nothing more than a poorly veiled attempt to circumvent the safeguards and rules enshrined to protect our state's waters in existing loan and grant programs. The proposed fund explicitly excludes the requirement that any private water project funded with state monies should provide a public benefit. Without this safeguard the proposed bill is nothing more than a government subsidy to the benefit of private developers. The proposed fund also explicitly excludes the obligation for any water storage project to preserve the full range of stream flows necessary to ensure the biological needs of fish and the geomorphologic needs of rivers. Without such safeguards, the short-term benefits of a water storage project may well come at the long-term, and perhaps irreversible, expense of our state's natural water resources.

Oregon's waters are precious. The droughts of the past years should have made us all exquisitely aware of this. Creating an unnecessary fund, which lacks safeguards to protect public financial and water resources, is a bad way to treat such a precious resources. Ensuring adequate water for us all, including the environment we live in and cherish, is a difficult, complex task. This proposed bill would both weaken existing efforts to manage water and risk making the task that much more difficult in the future.

I oppose this bill. Anyone with a serious concern about the future of water in our state should do the same. It is an unneeded and damaging proposal.

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