



**Oregon Farm Bureau Testimony on HB 4012A-3  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on General Government  
February 24, 2016**

**Oregon Farm Bureau Supports Addressing Groundwater Connectivity Concerns**

Co-Chairs Smith and Steiner-Hayward, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4012A-3. Oregon Farm Bureau supports efforts to address the process through which the Department determines connectivity between groundwater and surface water rights for purposes of regulation. We have heard concern from our members, particularly in the Klamath Basin, about the process that the Department uses to address connectivity between groundwater and surface water sources. These concerns lead our members to adopt policy – which guides Oregon Farm Bureau’s advocacy – addressing connectivity. Our policy states:

**Hydrological Connection 7.335**

- 1 Oregon Water Resource Department must use the most current, up
- 2 to date scientific techniques for determining connections of water
- 3 between wells and surface water.
- 4 Before a well can be regulated due to hydraulic connection to a
- 5 surface water source, the department must prove the connection and
- 6 that the impact is within the same irrigation season. (14)

We support efforts to improve the scientific techniques the Department uses to address connections of water between wells and surface water, and support efforts to ensure that the Department is actually proving that this connection exists, and creates an impact within the same irrigation season. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Mary Anne Nash at [maryanne@oregonfb.org](mailto:maryanne@oregonfb.org) or 541-740-4062.