



Oregon
Environmental
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It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
on House Bill 3051**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 3051 clarifying that installation of devices to measure groundwater use are eligible for the Water Measurement Cost Share Program Revolving Fund.

Measurement of actual water usage is key for watermasters to effectively distribute water in accordance with rights of record, and for the Oregon Water Resources Department to improve their water availability models and make informed decisions about new water rights. The Oregon Water Resources Commission recognized the value of water use measurement for water rights holders to manage their business operations as well as to support WRD programs and decision-making, and adopted their Strategic Measurement Plan in 2000 to increase installation of measurement devices throughout the state. The Water Resources Commission also articulated the need to provide incentives for the installation of water measurement devices, and the Water Measurement Cost Share Program Cost Share Revolving Fund was created by the Legislature in 2000.

As reported in the December 2016 Secretary of State's audit of the Water Resources Department, the department lacks detailed information about groundwater resources in many parts of the state, and notes that as not all water users are required to report their use, the amount of water being used in the state can only be estimated. Ensuring state incentive programs to install measurement devices are available to groundwater users will serve to increase the collection of data vital to management of Oregon's water resources.

HB 3051 simply enables groundwater users to access the same incentive program as surface water users, and we urge your support.