

Dear Representative Helm and Members of the
House Committee on Energy and Environment

COMMENTS OPPOSING HB 2705

I encourage you to vote against this bill for the following reasons:

1. Many of the water rights owners are agricultural businesses which already are hindered by multiple government rules, regulations and fees.
2. The bill is very unclear regarding whether or not the requirement for costly measurement devices applies only to the point of diversion from a river, or the diversions off the irrigation canals, or the point of diversion from the irrigation canal to the individual water rights holder.
3. When water is transported through open canals as it is in La Grande, any measurements will be inaccurate due to the impacts of rain and evaporation.
4. Measurement devices are unreasonably expensive.
5. The local irrigation district relies upon volunteers. Requiring a measuring device that requires ongoing maintenance would require hiring someone to maintain the device as no one in the irrigation district has the knowledge or could be expected to maintain the device(s) on an ongoing basis.

Huge budget issues face the Oregon Legislature. It seems that your time should be focused on addressing those budget problems rather than creating them for local people and municipalities.

Please let this bill die in committee.

Sincerely,

Irene Gilbert
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