

March 19, 2017

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

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2706

I belong to a small irrigation district. Water is diverted in primarily open channels for distribution to mainly agricultural users in Union County. The users maintain the channels and points of diversion. This irrigation district has been in place since 1868. Volunteers maintain the channels and upkeep. The irrigation ditch serves the function of taking care of storm water to minimize flooding in an area prone to that.

This is clearly a government action intended to expand it's beurocracy and power. Your fee is really a tax that you want to collect from the citizens so you can hire more beurocrats to collect the fees. Also, collecting this additional money from already financially strapped municipalities makes no sense. There is already a water master that is doing the work you are suggesting this fee will pay for.

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