

March 20, 2017

Re: House Bills 2705, 2706, 2707

Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment:

I am writing in support of HB 2705, 2706 and 2707 because they will help Oregon manage our critical water resources. We all depend on surface water and ground water for our agriculture, drinking water, and habitat, and are currently not doing even an adequate job of protecting those water resources. Oregon's drinking water, habitat for fish, and agricultural economy absolutely depend on our surface and ground water, neither of which have the basic protections in place to manage them, or to know either how much we have or how much we are consuming each year.

I urge you to pass these bills to take basic steps to assess, manage and protect Oregon's water resources. Protecting our water resources is central to assuring we have a reasonable supply of water for drinking, habitat and agriculture.

My siblings and I are 4th generation ranch owners on the southern Oregon coast, and I was a member of the advisory group for the update of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Both of those roles convince me it is urgent we improve our basic knowledge about, and management and protection of, our surface and ground water resources.

Thank you!

Mary Wahl

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