

Smith Holly

From: Matt Deniston <matt@sitkatech.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:58 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Please support House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

Dear OR House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I understand you will be discussing a few house bills during a hearing this Wednesday. I wanted to take a few quick minutes to encourage you to take action now and support these bills. They are important to me as a small business owner and citizen. I believe they are important to the entire state of Oregon.

I support HB 2705. Only limited progress on smarter water management has been made despite continued calls for it over the decades. Measurement of water is a critical need across the state. In order to ensure fair and sensible management decisions, we must know how much water we are using.

I support HB 2707. A key finding of the December 2016 audit of the Oregon Water Resources Department's effectiveness is that groundwater protection needs more focus. And yet, we're on a cadence to only study four groundwater basin studies every decade! Over 1M Oregonians rely on groundwater for their drinking water source, and demand is increasing.

I support HB 2706. The same Dec 2016 audit determined that the agency is chronically underfunded and lacks the resources to appropriately and effectively manage our state's surface and groundwaters. The Department can't fulfill its responsibilities without stable funding.

Thanks for your time and thoughtful consideration.

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