

March 19, 2017

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, representing approximately 500 members of our community, strongly supports House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707. Collectively, these bills will allow Oregon to accurately measure the amount of water we have, and how much is being consumed. Without this basic knowledge, we will not be able to adequately plan for the coming changes in water availability due to global warming.

According to the most recent National Climate Assessment, the Pacific Northwest is already experiencing significant impacts with more to come during this century. Their findings include:

- Changes in the timing of stream flows have already occurred and will continue, reducing the supply of water.
- Snowpacks in the Cascade Mountains have decreased 20% since 1950. Substantially lower flows in the Columbia River are anticipated. Reductions of summer flows in basins with significant snowmelt will threaten salmon, steelhead, and trout.

It is both prudent and essential we plan wisely for these changes we are now seeing, and that will become more pronounced over time. In order to address these changes in the quantity and timing of our water, it is essential we establish a baseline and measure what we have and what we are consuming. These three bills allow us to do just that.

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition is an all-volunteer grassroots organization dedicating to finding solutions to climate change and ways to adapt to the changes we know are coming. Therefore, we strongly urge you to support House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707 to ensure a sustainable future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

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