

Smith Holly

From: Roberta Jortner and Karl Lee <jortlee1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:26 AM
To: HEE Exhibits
Cc: robertajortner@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony in support of Smart Water Bills HB 2705, 2706, and 2707

To whom this concerns:

Please support HB 2705, 2706, and 2707. Having worked in the fields of natural resource and water resource management in Oregon for almost 30 years, I am ready to see the legislature step up and take appropriate action.

It is clear that Oregon needs an improved system for managing water resources. Water is scarce for during many months of the year, and often there is insufficient water in streams for people, fish, and wildlife. Also, groundwater levels continue to decline in many parts of the state.

This is not new. In fact this problem is old, but our approaches to deal with it have not changed much over the years. Now, with a growing population, and the potential for hotter, drier summers, the need for a reasonably up-to-date water management system is more than overdue.

House bills 2705, 2706, and 2707 represent important steps in the right direction toward sensible, accountable water management. It is unacceptable that Oregon does not require most water users to measure and report their water use. Oregon needs a dedicated funding source for administration and enforcement of water rights, including both out-of-stream and instream water rights. And Oregon needs funding and authority to measure and track groundwater levels and use.

We all need this, whether in urban areas or rural areas. We can't "kick the can down the road" forever.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter,
Roberta Jortner
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