

Smith Holly

From: Sandy Thompson <bsand@bendbroadband.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:16 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

Thank you for your attention to my input.

I support bills HB 2705, 2706 and 2707.

2705 deals with measuring water use, which has long been known to be needed in Oregon, but little progress has been made. Having data about water resources and uses is critical to sensible management decisions – especially when considering new water permit applications.

2706 for funding the Oregon Water Resources Department, which lacks resources to manage surface and groundwaters. It makes no sense to have a Department that's not funded to fulfill its responsibilities, especially when the health and future of Oregon's water is at stake.

2707 is about groundwater protection, which is proven to need more focus. Nearly one million Oregonians rely on groundwater for their drinking water source, and groundwater demand is increasing. More than 5,000 farms in Oregon rely on well water. Groundwater also supplies base flow for rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands.

Please realize how essential water and water management is to every facet of life. Please support these bills.

Thank you,

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Sandy Thompson,
Bend