

House Committee on Energy and Environment
March 22, 2017
HB 2705

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Jason Flowers and I am a fourth generation farmer in Klamath County, and I'm writing you today in reference to HB 2705.

My family's century farm sits along the Klamath River near an area known as Gore Island. We have 6 points of diversion that supply the property. Three of them are headgates that open directly into fields to provide flood irrigation because around 500 acres of the farm sits below the river level. Two are headgates that feed canals for both gravity flood irrigation and pumps for sprinkler irrigation. The last is a large canal that feeds both a headgate for gravity flood irrigation, a pump for a pivot, and two lift pumps that pump water over a ridge to the other side of the farm.

Not only would installing metering devices in these locations be challenging, but it would also be very expensive! The burden of that expense may be more than we could overcome.

Other than the expense I also have concerns that there is no leniency for a malfunction of one of these devices. I'm am concerned with both the possibility of them failing, or getting to the end of the season and determining that they must be out of calibration. What then?

I would urge you to oppose this bill and include the ag community in future conversations on this topic. I also want to extend an invitation to any of you to come to Klamath Falls so you can see the unique circumstances we have down there.

Thank you
Jason Flowers