

Smith Holly

From: Destinee S <mattanddestinee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:19 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: HB 2706 and HB 2705

The Honorable and Committee Chair Representative Ken Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

The House Committee on Energy and Environment will be conducting a hearing on both HB 2706 and HB 2705. I am strongly opposed to both of these bills.

HB 2706 is simple a tax that is impermissible. It provides no benefit for the water user and is solely a revenue raising bill. That makes it a tax. As a property owner my property's tax value already includes any water right that is tied to the land. This bill would result in a double taxation, which is not acceptable. In addition, it creates an administrative burden for the Oregon Water Resource Department as they try to sort through the actual owners of the individual water rights. Since the Legislature is proposing to cut the OWRD budget, any fees raised through this bill would at best make up the difference. As a result, it would only add more responsibilities to an already stress staff.

HB 2705 is also concerning. I am not opposed to monitoring water usage and in certain parts of the State it is quite valuable. However, this bill mandates the collection of data for no useful purpose since OWRD lacks the resources to process information. After all, they will spending all their time trying to track down the owners of a water right if HB 2706 passes.

Please oppose these two bills that will put unnecessary administrative burdens on the State and working families.

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