

To the Committee Members hearing HB 2706 2705,

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Sam Sweeney and I reside at 1070 Ferry St. Dayton Oregon 97114. I am a senior member of a multigenerational family farm operation in Yamhill County Oregon. Our farm raises a wide variety of irrigated crops with numerous diversion points and hold many different water rights. My background also includes being a past Director on the board of Palmer Creek Water District for 30 years.

I oppose 2706 since it would add a substantial cost to our annual operating costs and also be another layer of regulations our farm would need to comply with. The \$1000.00 limit would not apply to us since our water rights are under different ownerships. It would also be a form of double taxation since we also pay higher property taxes on irrigated farm land.

I also oppose 2705. Water meters due to their necessary mechanical makeup can break down with the owner being unaware until the end of the irrigation season. They can also display totals that are far from being accurate. During my thirty years on the PCWD I computed the annual water use for the members. There was never a year when there was not a problem with several meters and we only had 30 or 40 meters! The \$500.00 P/day, would be punitive and very unfair.

I realize that OWRD needs additional funding. But raising funds through these two bills are unfair and unworkable. Since irrigated farming benefits all of Oregon Citizens, funding should be spread over all of Oregon's economy instead of it being forced on the farmers.

Sincerely,

Sam Sweeney