

Smith Holly

From: Paul Dewey <paul@colw.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 2:57 PM
To: HEE Exhibits
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bills 2705, 2706, and 2707

House Committee on Energy and the Environment:

I am writing on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch and our over 200 members to urge your support of HB 2705, 2706 and 2707. We are a 30+ year old conservation organization based in Bend, whose members including fisheries biologists, farmers who irrigate, retired hydrogeologists, teachers, hunters, fishermen, and people from all walks of life. What we share in common is a concern for the natural environment and the health of our communities, including the farming community. We also believe we have an obligation to take care of what there is for the benefit of future generations.

The Oregonian articles on the subject of measuring groundwater supply and usage ("Draining Oregon") was eye opening, to say the least, but this excellent investigative journalism will be for nought unless these bills are passed. It is imperative that the State start understanding our groundwater and what effects we are having on it.

Water is one of our most precious resources, if not the most, and important steps in preserving that resource are to understand it, by requiring measurement of use (HB 2705) and measurement of availability (HB 2707), and then to manage it (HB 2706).

Please pass these reasonable and necessary bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Paul Dewey
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Sent from my iPad