

Timothy Winn
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Corvallis, OR 97330

House Energy and Environment Committee

Testimony On HB 2705

Chairman, Representative Helm and Committee Members,

I own and operate my family's farming operation, located a couple miles Northeast of Corvallis. We farm a total of 640 crop acres and consider ourselves average when compared to the other Norpac Foods growers of which we are part. All crop land in our operation is able to be irrigated and we enjoy the use of water rights associated with all the land that we own or rent. Within our operation, we make use of 14 separate water rights, which are serviced by a like number of diversions. As of a discussion that I had with a representative of Stettler Supply, here in Salem, if HB 2705 were to pass, I would incur an average cost of \$1800 per pumping site. With a minimum of about \$ 200 of my labor per installation, the requirement would cost me a minimum of \$28,000. We are challenged on our farm to maintain an effective and safe fleet of equipment to operate. This added expense would significantly limit those more relevant efforts. Additionally, our experience with such devices is that they are not dependably accurate and have a relatively short trouble-free life before they become dysfunctional from several possible causes. The cost is not a one-time item to budget for.

The expensive burden that this bill would place on all irrigators is completely unnecessary for the collection of needed data for the management and planning of Oregon's water resources. There are several proven methods of measuring, calculating and recording water use for irrigation purposes. The NRCS uses several of these methods very successfully to administer many of their programs. On our farm alone, whether involved in a required situation, such as a NRCS program or not, we keep tract of our water use and application rates for crop production reasons. None of this is foreign to any current farmer of any consequential size. We have to responsibly manage our water resource use in order to remain competitive. If OWRD truly needs irrigator use data from our industry, they merely need to find an efficient way to ask.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tim Winn, Benton County Farmer