

**From:** JILL ZARNOWITZ  
**To:** [JWMNR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Comment in Support of HB 5010 and POP 108  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:30:53 PM

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Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I strongly support HB 5010 and especially full funding for POP 108 which is Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Water Quality and Quantity Program. This program is important to the people of Oregon since it provides expertise to other agencies and the general public on maintaining water for fish, wildlife and aquatic habitats. It also helps to maintain aquatic habitat for recreation, including fishing, bird watching, and aesthetic enjoyment of Oregonians.

Since 1990 my husband and I have dry-land farmed our vineyard, specifically so that we will not impact Hawn Creek, two headwater branches of which cross our property. Though Hawn Creek, a tributary of the Yamhill River, has no anadromous fish because of a dam blocking the mouth, we maintain riparian and wetland habitat along it. By doing so, we discovered a rough-skinned newt (type of salamander) population that migrates up stream and winters in our riparian habitat and woods, then does the reverse in the spring. Pond turtles have also wintered in our riparian habitat, where they burrow in under logs and debris to wait out the winter. Both of these species are dependent on in-stream water to complete their life cycle.

However, without the experts in the ODFW Water Quality and Quantity Program, other agencies would not be able to understand these type of dynamics that relate to managing water for the beneficial uses of fish, wildlife and aquatic habitat.

In summary, I strongly support funding for the instream flow positions, which are currently not in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Any cuts to ODFW's Water Program, which is already under funded, will only exacerbate our state's water management issues related to fish and wildlife. With increasing pressures on our state's water resources, the work of the Water Program, supported by HB 5010, POP 108, is more important than ever. I urge you to support protecting our rivers for all uses.

Sincerely,

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