

From: Judy Li
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Strong Support of POP 108
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:18:12 PM

To the Committee:

As a stream ecologist I have worked on watersheds in Eastern, Central and Western Oregon for decades. Thus, I've seen firsthand the value of flowing waters and riparian zones in grasslands of our arid plateaus, woodlands of our valleys, and forests of our mountains. I believe that personnel of ODFW are absolutely critical to the management of water quality, natural resources and recreational values of these streams and rivers. Despite appalling underfunding these dedicated individuals are our frontline people-power in maintaining and conserving our aquatic resources. They deploy skills as scientists understanding the environment, as well as managers and communicators working with communities.

I believe fully funding the water program budget detailed in the Policy Option Package should be given high priority if we are to maintain the environmental quality standards for which our state is famous. Like many scientists who spend our professional careers working in and for the diverse components of watersheds, I also appreciate the aesthetic and recreational values of these lands. As a writer and educator I recognize the inspiration these resources provide, and as an avid bird-watcher, hiker, and boater (among other similar pastimes), I am certain that these resources are a significant economic driver in our state.

It is no secret that water quality is a critical component in our quality of life. Not only aquatic biota, but all humankind are absolutely dependent on the care taken to preserve clean water. In Oregon this means we must support the people who manage these waterways. Therefore I implore you to support ODFW's water program and its instream flow positions. In our research I have seen the importance of sustained, long-term data that comes out of these programs. We cannot plan for the future unless we have information about trends of the past and present.

Thank you for taking a stand to support our waterways, and our future.

Sincerely,
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