

**From:** Ann Laferriere, CFP  
**To:** [JWMNR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 5542, OWRD Budget  
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I wholeheartedly support HB 5542 in the current budget. I believe the Governor is correct to allocate funds to increase funding for studies to rapidly increase our understanding of the current condition and future resiliency of our state's groundwater supplies. The state should commit to completing comprehensive studies for key watersheds in the near future. These studies are not only needed as soon as possible to protect fish and wildlife from the impacts of groundwater depletion on surface flows, but also existing water users.

As our state grows at a rapid pace and as the economy continues to grow the need for better understanding of water as an important resource is critical to the health of the rivers, ground water and the economic impacts therein.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Laferriere  
61140 Minaret Cir  
Bend, OR 97702