

From: dbhohler@gmail.com
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony on HB 5542, OWRD Budget
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:22:37 AM

Dear Committee members,

My understanding is that the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources is taking public comment on the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) Budget through this Thursday afternoon. I am writing to you in reference to HB 5542 to support the programs that are so important to the water resources of Oregon, namely the healthy rivers and sustainable aquifers, and to oppose proposed cuts that will undermine critical water resource management programs.

I support Package 101 in HB 5422, in which the Governor recommends \$1.8 million to support groundwater studies. The legislature should increase funding for studies to rapidly increase our understanding of the current condition and future resiliency of our state's groundwater supplies. I believe 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.

I support Package 105 in HB 5422, which would enhance water management in the field by adding three assistant regional managers and bolstering the hydrotech team. I believe that watermasters are critical for on-the-ground management of water rights — both instream and out-of-stream.

Please DO NOT CUT funding for critical management functions including, specifically, funding for: A) groundwater studies, B) observation wells, and C) gauging stations. Programs that benefit all Oregonians, as opposed to private interests, should not be at the top of the cut list.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

David Hohler

3147 NW Norwood Dr.

Corvallis, OR 97330

541-760-2605

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10