

# OREGON DESERT BRINE SHRIMP COMPANY

Natural fish food from the high Oregon desert

(503) 285-3729

9360 N. W. Harbor Blvd.



Portland, OR 97231

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To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee

I urge the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources to encourage OWRD to support Package 101 in HB 5422, Package 105 in HB 5422 and not to cut funding for critical management functions.

Oregon has had a dismal record of monitoring and managing ground and surface waters - especially in eastern Oregon. Lack of adequate science and monitoring has contributed to the drying and ecological collapse of several lakes in the eastern part of the state including Lake Abert.

For the past three years Lake Abert has been dry and ecologically dead as a result of increased surface and ground water use. As a consequence, we have lost our business of 35 years commercially harvesting brine shrimp from Abert. Yet, as I write this letter one can observe more sagebrush land being tilled and replaced with well driven pivot lines for the production of alfalfa. What detrimental effect this has on the Chewaucan River and Lake Abert is unknown.

It is time that the State do the right thing and supply the funds to manage surface and ground water based on science and not politics.

Sincerely

Keith Kreuz