

From: Dean Runyan
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 5542, OWRD Budget
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:45:51 AM

Dear Committee Members:

This bill is a very important opportunity to provide the support necessary to properly address Oregon crucial water problems. We need to move decisively to provide the data and staffing necessary to get a handle on our urgent water resource analysis and planning needs.

As I am sure you know we are woefully behind in gathering the data necessary to assess groundwater resources in many Oregon watersheds, data that is necessary before we can effectively plan for current and future withdrawals. We have put off this work for years, please support Package 101 so we can get a start.

Similarly we need to have the staff necessary to focus on groundwater issues, which we have not been able to do adequately in the past. Please support Package 105 to augment staff that can address these problems.

In addition, as you work on this legislation, avoid diminishing our water resource assessment and planning capabilities – avoid cuts to staff and programs that monitor water resources and use.

My business is very active in Oregon's travel industry and I want to stress the connection between our surface and ground water resources and the future appeal as a tourism destination. High quality water, fish and healthy riparian habitats are central to Oregon's identify as a destination, setting us apart in a very crowded and competitive travel marketplace. We need to be proactive to protect our position, which will definitely be diminished if our surface waters are depleted, particularly during the important summer travel season, and groundwater is not available in locations where tourism-related development is necessary.

Thanks you for your work on this important area of legislation.

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