

From: jeanedwards@wildblue.net
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Comments in Support of SB5542 (Package 101 and 105)
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:02:54 PM

Dear Committee Members,

Our family operates a commercial berry farm in Washington County that is irrigated from a stream (tributary to Dairy Creek). After reading the Oregonian newspaper investigation last fall on water depletion in Oregon, we really do have a crisis looming in this state. Depleted aquifers with virtually no understanding of water availability is shocking. This matter has now become a much bigger priority to me, and I trust that your committee will need to take the lead on this matter.

I therefore support SB5542, Package 101, to appropriate \$1.8 million for groundwater studies. Although we have a relatively senior water right for our farmlands, I am concerned that rapid development and population growth in Washington County threaten to make water less available for agriculture. This legislation would at least give us an idea of what water is available. The need is even greater in drier parts of the state based upon the Oregonian report.

I also support Package 105 in SB5542, which is necessary to keep up with the real world need to have a better understanding of in-stream and out-of-stream water uses. Ignorance is not an acceptable management strategy when it comes to water.

Thirdly, I request that the subcommittee not cut funding for groundwater studies, observation wells and gauging stations so that water management decisions will be based on real information and knowledge which we sorely lack.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions I can be reached at 503 706-9663.

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