

From: Joe Moore
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 5542, OWRD Budget
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 4:46:11 PM

Dear Legislators: My name is Joe Moore. I'm a registered voter in Washington County. Please forgive me, once again, for the cut-and-paste email below (I commented on this a few weeks ago), but it does sum up my feelings about the regulation of water usage in Oregon. I'm a hiker, camper, paddler, and photographer in Oregon. I've paddled canoes on rivers all across the United States. I've also done some study on the laws and rules regarding water usage in Oregon, since the days I went to paralegal school and tried to get an internship at Waterwatch of Oregon. I've also been involved in river protection since before I came to Oregon. I strongly feel that the water in Oregon (and across the United States and the world), both in-stream and groundwater, needs more study and more protection, not less. Thanks you for your consideration.

1. **Support Package 101 in SB 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. 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.
2. **Support Package 105 in SB 5422**, which would enhance water management in the field by adding three assistant regional managers and bolstering the hydrotech team. Watermasters are critical for on the ground management of water rights — both instream and out-of-stream.
3. **Please ask the Subcommittee to 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!