

From: Steve Kaser
To: [JWMNR Exhibits](#)
Cc: info@waterwatch.org
Subject: Testimony on SB 5542, OWRD Budget
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:40:39 AM

Dear fellow Oregonians,

For 48 years I have made my living from our most precious resource...water. During my continuing career I have drilled water wells, sold drilling equipment and tooling, taught CEU classes throughout the Pacific Northwest to drilling contractors and operate as a consultant offering my expertise and my Oregon Water Well Contractors license to out-of-state dewatering companies who wish to work in Oregon.

Both surface and groundwater have been poorly mismanaged throughout my career. This is substantiated by the current situation we find ourselves in. Oregon's historically ample rainfall has supported an legislative attitude of taking our water for granted. This attitude has been passed on for generations.

Legislatively water conservation and protection has also been ignored because of the potential political repercussions associated with it. Now we find ourselves facing the results of years of inaction by our legislative bodies.

The Oregon Department of Water Resources has been given the responsibility to preserve and protect Oregon waters by the legislature. However they have never been given adequate resources to succeed in their assigned duties. This has been the case for decades. Again the proof of this statement rests in today's unacceptable deplorable condition of our surface and groundwater.

We can no longer ignore the reality of our wastefulness and lack of political wisdom and strength in making decisions to protect and conserve Oregon's life giving resource. I urge the passage in its entirety SB5542 and approving the OWRD Budget as presented. I say this even knowing the proposed OWRD budget is not enough. More resources are needed.

Please remember Oregon's water is life giving. Not just for the creatures that live in it but for all forms of life that exists in Oregon.

Thank you and I pray you will do the right thing and finally put Oregon's water at the top of your list of priorities where it should have been from the beginning.

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