



**HB 3051**  
**Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon**  
**Submitted to Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**  
**May 4, 2017**

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports HB 3051, a bill that would expand the existing measurement cost share fund to include groundwater.

Measurement of water use---both surface water and groundwater---is the cornerstone of responsible water management. Measurement of groundwater data is important for a number of management purposes, including providing the state with data that is helpful to understanding the capacity of our state's aquifers, helping assess how much water is available for sustainable appropriation and protecting existing water right holders. Expanding the cost share measurement fund to allow groundwater users to access this fund will provide incentives to help meet these and other state water management goals.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Contacts: Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, 503-295-4039 x 3, [kjp@waterwatch.org](mailto:kjp@waterwatch.org)