



SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Support HB 3051

Expansion of Water Resources Cost Share Measurement Program

May 8, 2017

Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Oregon Association of Nurseries and Oregon Dairy Farmers' Association write to urge your support for HB 3051. HB 3051 would expand permissible uses of the Water Measurement Cost Share Program Revolving Fund to include groundwater resources. This would enable OWRD to work with landowners to engage in voluntary measurement of both surface and groundwater. The fund can pay up to 75 percent of the cost of installing a measuring device, the cost of which can ordinarily be cost prohibitive to many farmers and ranchers around the state.

Currently, the cost share measurement program is limited to surface water diversions, and landowners who rely on well water cannot access the program. Given the increased focus around the management of groundwater around the state, and our longstanding support of increased groundwater basin studies, we think that expansion of the program to include groundwater is a sensible investment.