

February 11, 2018

From: Jeff Werner commercial salmon fisherman

To: Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

Re: Testimony Opposing HB 4016

I am writing in opposition to HB 4016. It would make already strained salmon runs more vulnerable to drought conditions. Periods of drought are a fairly common occurrence in the Klamath Basin and probably destined to become more common. An essential for salmon propagation and survival, water, already in short supply, cannot continue to be allocated at the expense of fish.

Revisiting water rights that have been dormant for over 5 years would significantly alter the demand for water. In a time when water is scarce salmon need to get an essential share of what is available. By adding another divvy to the already tight supply, the iconic salmon and the wide range of businesses that depend on it face hardships.

The Oregon commercial salmon industry has had some tough times recently. As the seasons become thinner and more constrained in open areas, the fleet and support businesses that rely on salmon face financial strain and, in some cases, ruin. Salmon fishermen have seen the resilience that these fish have when faced with nature's obstacles. They cannot survive without adequate water.

I urge you to not support HB 4016. It could further jeopardize Oregon's coastal economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Werner