

2/22/2018

Joint Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee  
Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod  
Co-Chair Representative Paul Holvey  
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5702 - Written Testimony for February 23, 2018 Subcommittee Meeting  
in Support of Bradshaw Drop Piping Project

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Jackson County Stockmen's Association supports the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's pursuit of funding for the Bradshaw Drop Piping Project. Many of the ranchers and cattlemen who make up our organization have agricultural operations which are dependent on the reliable delivery of irrigation water to produce the forage resources that feed our cattle. Without irrigation, many of our farms and ranches would be much less productive and not economically viable. Maintaining a dependable supply of irrigation water into the future is essential to the long-term sustainability of the livestock enterprises in our valley.

The Bradshaw Drop Piping Project, when completed, will benefit the livestock producers who live in the project area by providing pressurized, cleaner water for them to irrigate with. It will make it more feasible to convert from flood to sprinkle irrigation systems as they will no longer have to bear the operating and capital costs of pumping systems. After converting to sprinkle systems, there will be much less return flows off these lands which will improve water quality and fish habitat in the streams below these lands. Also, the production levels on these fields are likely to increase significantly after conversion.

The Bradshaw Drop Piping Project will be an excellent demonstration project to show the whole range of benefits that these types of water projects can yield. For many years there have been ongoing local efforts, in particular WISE (Water for Irrigation, Streams, and the Economy), that have looked at ways to modernize our antiquated irrigation water delivery systems. This project will be a great first step in showing people in our region what is possible. The Jackson County Stockmen's Association encourages you to grant funding for the Bradshaw Drop Piping Project.

Sincerely,



Thomas White, Secretary, Jackson County Stockmen's Association

