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February 23, 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

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

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

The Medford Water Commission strongly supports Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's request for funding of the proposed Bradshaw Drop piping project. The \$1,895,000 request is the final piece of the funding package to allow this important project to move forward. This project involves piping 3.3 miles of the District's main canal, which will provide the following benefits:

- Improve water quality through pressurized irrigation water
- Reduce polluted irrigation runoff through conversion from flood irrigation to sprinklers
- Leave water in-stream for fish, including the Federally-listed coho
- Create an opportunity for hydroelectric generation
- Eliminate leakage and evaporation
- Reduce the need for aquatic weed control
- Provide a WISE demonstration project
- Protect the regional agricultural economy

The Medford Water Commission is a key partner for water conservation, water quality and fish habitat enhancement in the Rogue River Basin. The Bradshaw Drop Piping project is an excellent project that will improve water quality, quantity and fish habitat within the RRVID boundaries, and will serve as the perfect demonstration project to showcase WISE project goals and inspire other similar projects throughout the Rogue Basin. The Medford Water Commission enthusiastically encourages funding for this project.

Sincerely,

Brad Taylor  
General Manager

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