

Jackson County Farm Bureau

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

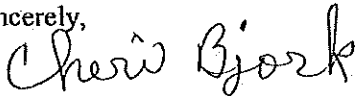
Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Jackson County Farm Bureau supports the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's application for grant funding for the Bradshaw Drop Piping Project. Most of our members have agricultural operations which are dependent on the reliable delivery of irrigation water during the growing season. Without irrigation, many of our farms and ranches would be much less productive and not economically solvent. Maintaining a dependable supply of irrigation water into the future is essential to the long-term sustainability of the agricultural economy of our valley.

The Bradshaw Drop Piping Project, when completed, will benefit our members 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 after conversion.

The Bradshaw Drop Piping Project will be one of the largest irrigation infrastructure modernization projects in the Rogue Valley in the last 50 years. This project will be an excellent demonstration project to show the whole range of benefits that these types of projects can yield. The Jackson County Farm Bureau urges you to grant funding for the Bradshaw Drop Piping Project.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bjork, Secretary/Treasurer, Jackson County Farm Bureau