

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Capital Construction  
Subcommittee  
on House Bill 5030**

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Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

**Oregon Environmental Council strongly supports the Deschutes Basin Board of Control's (DBBC's) funding request for \$25,000,000 over the next biennium.** This funding will be used as match to leverage the \$75,000,000 the DBBC has secured from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service PL 566 program.

The DBBC's irrigation modernization projects will increase the resilience of the Deschutes Basin and the health of the Deschutes River by reducing the amount of water lost through evaporation and leakage from water delivery main and lateral canals. Delivering irrigation water by pipe instead of open canals will conserve water, much of which will be returned to the river under the state's Allocation of Conserved Water program. This will result in improved stream flows and habitat and improved water quality. In addition, irrigators will gain increased water reliability, and reduced power use and cost.

Modernizing the DBBC's water delivery systems is an essential component of the Deschutes Basin community's ongoing efforts to conserve and protect the Deschutes River and its tributaries. All projects have been/will be thoroughly vetted to ensure compliance with all federal and state laws protecting the environment and fish and wildlife.

As our state strives to develop a secure water future for its communities, for the environment and for the full range of economic sectors operating in Oregon, we must embrace opportunities to move forward. The \$75 million secured by the DBBC provides such an opportunity if we are willing to provide the \$25 million being requested from state lottery dollars as match.

**Oregon Environmental Council urges you to support the DBBC's request at the full funding level requested.**