



**HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
MAY 1, 2019
WE SUPPORT HCR 33**

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Our coalition is writing to support HCR 33, which at its base will support more focused efforts to address our state's water future. Water is our state's most critical resource, supplying clean drinking water for communities, irrigation for food and fiber, and habitat for our fish and wildlife. Water touches the lives of every Oregonian. However, our state's investment in water infrastructure, water management, and water planning has fallen behind the need in these critical areas, leaving Oregon lagging behind other western states in progress in several key metrics and mired in conflict in many basins.

Our organizations represent a broad spectrum of water users, who are deeply invested in and impacted by water management decisions in the state. To that end, we have been working diligently for the last decade to support investment in water infrastructure, water planning, and the Oregon Water Resources Department. We have also worked hard to build coalitions on all sides of the water community in order to support increased investment in water in the state, highlight successes and opportunities in water management in the state, and ensure that Oregon's water future remains at the forefront of key state conversations.

There are critical conversations to be had around how to overcome long-standing water conflicts around the state, how to fund our water resources management and infrastructure needs, and how to ensure we have an adequate water supply into the future for people, farms and fish. We applaud the legislature's interest in engaging more deeply around water management, and we would welcome the opportunity to be part of these conversations, host tours, and provide additional information on our views around water management in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us if you have any questions.

Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau
Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries
Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress
Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon
JR Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association