

From: [Ben McCanna](#)
To: [Exhibits HWTR](#)
Subject: comment on HB 4069
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 4:11:22 PM

To the Oregon House Water Committee Members,

I support House bill 4069 because it will help our state. I live in rural Harney County where groundwater permits have been issued that have drained the resource and put us in a state of declining water supplies. Allowing OWRD to require reporting for permits where measurement is required is a common sense step toward better management. The state needs water use data to be able to responsibly manage the resource.

In the longer run, if we could get mandatory water meters on the pumps in these areas that would also be critical for better management. That way we would know how many millions of gallons of water they are pumping out of the ground every minute all summer long. It would be a big help to start figuring out how much of the resource is being used and if there is any way to slow this down.

I have been living here on and off since I was a kid. I bought my property around 30 years ago. I rely on a domestic well at my house and property and my well level is declining by 1.2 feet a year. We decided a long time ago to not develop our property for agriculture because we live in a desert. We knew about the questions around how much water was in this area. When I got the money together to place my home here, I never thought that there would be this huge influx of alfalfa pivots move into our area and start taking so much water out of our aquifer. Now a number of wells here are in decline there is a big hole developing in our area aquifer. I worry every day that they are going to collapse our water level to point it will never recover.

Thank you for your service in the House.

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