

**Testimony to the House Committee on Water  
on House Bill 4069**

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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 supports HB 4069

HB 4069 allows the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to require water users to report their water use. It does not create a mandate for OWRD to do so.

It is often acknowledged that you cannot manage what you do not measure. In this instance, OWRD's ability to manage current water use and plan for our water future is constrained by not having access to accurate monitoring data. With climate change resulting in significant shifts in precipitation patterns, quantity and timing it is essential that the department have relevant and timely water use data for managing the state's water on behalf of water users, water rights holders, recreationalists, and wildlife. Ensuring that Oregon's rivers have sufficient flow and that Oregonians have sufficient water requires accurate water accounting.

Some but not all permitted water users in Oregon are required to measure and/or report their water use. Water users whose permits pre-date 1993 may be required by OWRD to measure their water, but currently the Department cannot require them to report those numbers.

HB 4069 will give OWRD the ability to require reporting where the Department deems it necessary for fulfilling its mandate to responsibly manage the state's water to directly address Oregon's water supply needs and to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

OEC strongly urges you to support HB 4069.