



LUBGWMA

Action Committee

The Honorable Bill Hansell
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, Suite S-415
Salem, OR 97301

LUBGWMA Action Committee support for SB 1562

Dear Senator Hansell:

On behalf of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Action Committee, we would like to express our support for Senate Bill 1562 in the 2020 short session of the Oregon Legislature. The LUBGWMA Action Committee held a formal vote at the last committee meeting on January 30th, 2020 and unanimously passed a motion to support SB 1562.

In accordance with Oregon's Groundwater Quality Protection Act of 1989, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) declared the LUBGWMA in 1990 because regional nitrate-nitrogen concentrations exceeded 7 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The intent of declaring a GWMA is to allow the identification and implementation of practices that will reduce nitrate loading and ultimately reduce regional groundwater nitrate concentrations to below 7 mg/L. To accomplish such tasks, the LUBGWMA Action Committee was formed and is composed of local area businesses, residents and governments representing a broad range of interests within the local area and basin. The Committee is an official body and has since developed and adopted voluntary Action Plans with the help of Umatilla and Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Committee supports SB 1562 because of the importance to agricultural, municipal, industrial and environmental interests in the Umatilla Basin. The goals of SB 1562 will forge a path forward to set up an interagency team including OSU, ODA, DEQ, OHA, with technical support from agencies such as OWRD, to work with local stakeholders and interest groups to fix groundwater contamination in the LUBGWMA.

We hope that SB 1562 will be successful in the upcoming 2020 short session, and look forward to supporting the efforts to improve water quality for all users in the LUBGWMA.

Sincerely,

Scott Lukas
Assistant Professor, OSU HAREC
LUBGWMA Committee chair

Miff Devin
Port of Morrow
LUBGWMA Committee Vice-Chair