

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**SB 5545**

**Water Resources Department**

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To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Taylor

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SB 5545 is the budget bill for the Water Resources Department.

Setting aside a reduction of \$43.0 million Other Funds expenditure limitation for bond proceeds from bond sales in the 2019-21 biennium that were not completed, the budget for the agency increases by \$8,777,959 or 6.85% from the current service level.

The budget includes significant investments in capacity and funding. These investments are made as part of the legislative water package. These include additional staffing and funding for the Dam Safety program, regional field staff, and groundwater study teams. Investments are included to address the agency's information technology capacity, to address complex basin issues throughout the state including the Willamette and Deschutes Basins, and to address groundwater mitigation strategies in the Harney Basin.

A \$1.5 million investment to specifically address equitable water access and indigenous energy resiliency is also included.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5545 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.