

January 25, 2021

To: Chair Jeff Golden, Vice-Chair Dallas Heard, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 130, Extension of District Temporary Transfer Pilot Program

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and Members of the Committee:

Sutherlin Water Control District is testifying in support of SB 130, which will extend a critical pilot program for fifteen districts, including ours.

The district provides flood control for the city of Sutherlin through Plat I and Cooper Creek reservoirs. While providing Irrigation water for approximately 65 users over 600 acres. The users grow lots of hay and blueberries and other crops. Plat I has a drainage area of 9 square miles. Cooper creek has a drainage area of 4.4 miles and holds 4830 acre feet of water.

This program has great benefits to our district and we would love to see it continue.

There are many benefits of participating in temporary transfer program to our district, including:

- Provides district with flexibility needed to best meet water needs within district
- More timely access for patrons to access available water for pending irrigation season
- Minimal paperwork for simple “on” and “off” transfers helps reduce regulatory burden
- Reduced expense to district and patrons from unnecessary application fees
- Provides beneficial use and protects water rights from non-use
- Optimizes limited water supplies for use by farmers and ranchers, increasing economic production and food supply stability

The district temporary transfer pilot program provides numerous benefits to our district and other districts around the state. We urge you to pass SB 130 and extend the program to 2030.

Thank for your support of SB 130.

Sincerely,
Robert Rippey,
District Manager SWCD.