



March 12, 2021

To House Committee on Water  
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Re: Concern with HB 3228 – Water Management Plans

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) supports **HB 3228**. OACD represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are special districts governed by countywide elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

We have several concerns with HB 3228 as written and would recommend that there be a work group assigned to this issue. An alternative would be to have a pilot project if the legislature funds a project accordingly.

These are the issues we see:

- Broad language needs to be more defined
- Major cost to implement on a statewide basis if allowed to be used in any basin
- Requires considerable oversight by the department with no funding request
- Doesn't require recordkeeping to identify status of rights involved
- Limits oversight of the department if a right of record is within the plan

Having said that, there could be a way to do this effectively, but more work is required before a statewide launch. The Deschutes Basin has a plan developed under statute, but it is quite rigorous and I believe funding was allocated for the department to be able to enact it.

We are concerned with the Harney Basin conditions and we would like to see a tool that can be developed, perhaps as a pilot, but with more provisions than outlined, developed in cooperation with the Water Resources Department.

Jan Lee, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
(503) 545-9420  
[Jan.lee@oacd.org](mailto:Jan.lee@oacd.org)  
<https://oacd.org>

P.O. Box 1809, Sandy, OR 97301