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House Committee On Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Testimony: HB 3091

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Reardon, and Members of the Committee,

Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is a conservation organization which for more than 35 years has protected Central Oregon’s beautiful forests and high desert, rivers and springs, fish and wildlife, and our vibrant communities. We work to conserve the region’s ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and working rural lands balanced with a responsible, sustainable approach to planning and fostering thriving communities.

LandWatch opposes HB 3091. Bill establishes Task Force on Location Transfers of Stored Water.

LandWatch opposes movement of location of stored water due to the uncertainty of the environmental effects such movement would cause. Placement of new reservoirs needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in order to avoid or properly mitigate any adverse effects associated with them. No blanket rule or policy can do this properly. HB 3091 assigns a task force to examine this issue. LandWatch opposes HB 3091 because changing location of reservoirs is bad policy and the task force assigned to examine this is skewed in favor of water users. Only two of the seven voting members are conservation interests, and there is no tribal representation.

LandWatch thanks the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Tod Heisler
Director, Rivers Program
Central Oregon LandWatch

