

Honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee. I am Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer. I'm here today in support of the Ordnance Water Project also known as the Central Water Project. The 3rd and final project proposed by North East Oregon Water Association as a regional fix in 2013. Umatilla County acquired Columbia River pumping capacity, meeting NOAA/NMFS standards for fish protections, in 2019 and has since acquired easements and permits to construct a regional water supply pipeline that can serve industrial, rural residential and agricultural needs in Umatilla County and Morrow County. The Ordnance Project is shovel ready and can begin as soon as a funding package is secured. Umatilla County has already invested \$1 Million into the project since 2019 and has set aside an additional \$2 million in 2021 to pay for final engineering, recharge testing permits, and construction of the Columbia River pumping station. Additional funds are needed to complete the project mainline and recharge infiltration gallery to enable multi-use of the regional water supply pipeline. As I stated earlier, this project is shovel ready. Construction of the mainline and recharge basin can be completed by the spring of 2022. Recharge testing can begin in the fall of 2022. Umatilla County is overseeing construction of the project and will own and operate the mainline and aquifer recharge components. Some of the Economic and Environmental Benefits are: this project will ensure reliable water supplies for the full build out of the industrial acreage of the Umatilla Chemical Depot redevelopment area as well as to serve, sustain and enhance over 14,000 acres of high-value irrigated farm land. The Aquifer recharge component is intended to recover an aquifer that has been in steady decline since the 1960's leading to drought and climate change resiliency. This is a project that will benefit both the ag community as well as provide a much needed driver for economic development to our region. Again this project is shovel ready. Thank you for your time.