

April 24, 2021 (1-3pm hearing)
Re: Budget Priorities (SB 5555)
Dear Legislators—Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Good afternoon chair ---- and committee members,

My name is Bill Montgomery. I live in Lincoln county. I am a board member of the Mid Coast Watershed council and a participant with the Mid coast place based water planning partnership. I respectfully reject The Governor's reduction packages 090 and 092. The Mid coast water planning partnership is a science-based partnership hinging on the involvement of ODWR, ODFW, and DEQ. The data collected and the studies that have been performed in the past and present are essential to our decision-making process. These agencies are understaffed and under funded.

I ask you to Please support ODFW policy option package 114. We need ODFW at the partnership table! Please support, ODFW POP 115 and OWRD POP 113 , Please support POP 105 for ODFW, OWRD, and DEQ, POP OWRD 110, OWRD POP 109 The fact of the matter is that most of our mid coast streams and rivers are on the 303-d list of impaired waters. The low flows, high water temps, and low DO is deadly to the aquatic life. Not to mentioned in the possible curtailment of water use to municipalities and industry. The Toledo water and conservation plan states: Between 2015 and today instream water rights on the Siletz river were not met a significant amount of time in August, Sept and Oct. We must invest in Watershed health and source water protection.

It is all hands on deck with climate change upon us. Please invest in Science so we can make decisions base on ample data and scientific studies.

Thank you,
Bill Montgomery
Lincoln County Oregon