



March 24, 2021

**To:** Chair Ken Helm, Vice-Chair Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Jeff Reardon, and Members of the House Water Committee

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

Dear Chair Ken Helm, Vice-Chair Mark Owens, Vice-Chair Jeff Reardon, and Members of the House Water Committee:

Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) submits this letter as testimony in support of SB 130 to extend a critical pilot program for fifteen districts, including ours.

COID is located in the Deschutes Basin, delivering water to about 43,000 acres to 3900 patrons within an 180,000-acre area in Central Oregon. More than 700 miles of canals provide agricultural and industrial water to the Terrebonne, Redmond, Bend, Alfalfa and Powell Butte areas. Our patrons produce a variety of crops, including hay, livestock forage, produce, carrot seed, etc. and in recent years, hemp.

COID has actively utilized the State's temporary transfer program since 2011. This program has become a critical tool, benefitting our patrons and the district in many ways, including:

- Provides a patron the option to not irrigate their land for a season, while continuing to receive beneficial use of the water at another location.
- Provides a farmer the ability to fallow a field and transfer the water to another field without expensive mapping, State application fees, and time-consuming process time.
- Provides a farmer ability to put land into production with available temporary water while waiting for permanent water to come available for purchase.
- Provides a farmer flexibility to adjust annual field lay-out and ag road accesses.
- Provides COID option to temporarily transfer water held in their inventory (acquired from urbanizing acres) to patron lands within the district, benefitting agriculture and providing the water beneficial use.
- OWRD transfer fees are not required which encourages users to move small, at-risk water to more suitable land.
- The temporary transfer program benefits OWRD by relieving staff of the time-consuming processes required on a permanent transfer.

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

Thank you for your support of SB 130.

Sincerely,

Craig Horrell  
Managing Director, Central Oregon Irrigation District