



January 25, 2021

To: Chair Jeff Golden, Vice-Chair Dallas Heard, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery Committee

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and Members of the Committee:

Ochoco Irrigation District (OID) submits this letter in support of SB 130, which will extend a critical pilot program for fifteen districts, including ours.

OID is located in and around the City of Prineville in Crook County, Oregon. The District contains 20,062 irrigated acres used by 898 patrons. Water is stored in the Ochoco and Prineville Reservoirs, and then released into Ochoco Canal, Ochoco Creek and the Crooked River during irrigation season. Irrigation is provided to farmers growing a wide variety of crops including; alfalfa, grass hay, carrot seed, pasture grass, and other specialty crops.

The temporary transfer program provides numerous benefits to our district, including:

- Provides district with flexibility needed to best meet water needs within district
- More timely access for patrons to access available water for pending irrigation season
- Minimal paperwork for simple "on" and "off" transfers helps reduce regulatory burden
- Reduced expense to district and patrons from unnecessary application fees
- Provides beneficial use and protects water rights from non-use
- Optimizes limited water supplies for use by farmers and ranchers, increasing economic production and food supply stability

As water managers work to provide this important resource in the face of extreme drought and uncertainty associated with issues like climate change, the temporary transfer pilot program is an important tool that is critical to our success. I urge you to pass SB130 and extend this program.

Thank for your support of SB 130.

Sincerely,

Bruce Scanlon
Manager
Ochoco Irrigation District