

Chair Helm, Members of the Committee,

Since 1993, the static line (stable water level) in our well has dropped from 20 feet to 70 feet deep. The bottom of our well is at 75 feet, meaning that if the water level continues to drop, as we expect it to, we will have no choice but to spend thousands of dollars to deepen the well. The drop in the water table coincides with a recent and rapid increase in the number of irrigated (pivot line) fields in the area surrounding our home. Additionally, a second well on the property dried up two years ago. While we weren't using the second well for domestic purposes, this signaled the likelihood that our water is in jeopardy. Since much of the hay grown in the Harney Basin is exported out of Harney County, this, by extension, means our water—domestic and agricultural—is also being exported. We highly recommend this bill be passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today. I would be very happy to answer any questions.