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To: [REP Owens](#); [CROWELL Courtney * GOV](#); [PURSINGER Branden](#); [REP Helm](#)
Cc: [BYLER Thomas M * WRD](#); [Mary Anne Cooper](#)
Subject: Agreement with Oregon Farm Bureau
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Importance: High

Hi All,

Given how quickly the cannabis package has come together, we understand that some stakeholders would like the opportunity to further discuss and shape how the funding is spent. OWRD has been in conversation with Oregon Farm Bureau and understands they need more time to understand the package. There is no disagreement on the need for resources to address unauthorized use of water at cannabis sites and Mary Anne has expressed support for the \$5 million moving forward and a desire to further shape the details of what the \$5 million is spent on if needed. The Department is comfortable with this approach, particularly given that we have not had time to engage in conversations with stakeholders as we normally would, given the short turnaround time for development of this package.

As such, the Department and Farm Bureau have agreed to the following solution. Mary Anne, please chime in if you think I got the details wrong.

First, in regards to the enforcement section, the Department agrees that it will only be used on cannabis enforcement in the near-term until the Department is able to have further conversations with stakeholders about the Department's current processes and why the Department proposes to have all enforcements go through the same section as opposed to a separate section. The Department will not move forward with making this switch until it has these conversations with stakeholders and there is sufficient acceptance (neutral or supportive) by most water user stakeholder groups over this proposal.

Second, the current proposal includes funding for OpenET and staff necessary to process data from OpenET to make it usable and accessible for field staff in identifying unauthorized uses. The Department agrees to discuss this further work with water user stakeholder groups. If sufficient acceptance (neutral or supportive) is not achieved, the Department will instead seek to shift this funding to fund assistant watermaster staff instead. If there is sufficient acceptance, the package will proceed as proposed.

In summary there is not a dispute over the need for the \$5 million, but rather just a desire to have further involvement on how the \$5 million is allocated to achieve the goal. The Department recognizes that this package has come together in a very short period of time and values working with stakeholders. We believe that if there is a need for any further adjustments, we will have had adequate time to discuss and make legislators and the Governor's office aware of the need for any adjustments in time for the 2022 session. Our understanding is that OFB is comfortable with this approach.

Thanks,

Racquel Rancier

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