



February 8, 2022

To House Agriculture Land Use and Water Committee
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
Re: Support for HB 4061 – Water Enforcement

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 4061, including the -1 amendments, which provide important mechanisms to enforce water rights laws. Failure to enforce water rights laws can cause significant harm to water rights holders and the environment.

We recognize that there were many good ideas leading up to preparation of this bill, but some of the ideas were set aside given the limited capabilities to fully address the issues in the short session. We urge that this bill be considered a first step to improving Oregon Water Resources Department enforcement tools and hope that that discussion on this topic will be continued.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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