

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 5043

Water Resources Department

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

HB 5043 is the budget bill for the Oregon Water Resources Department.

The all-funds budget of \$189.3 million is a decrease of \$21 million, or 10%, from the 2021-23 legislatively approved budget, but an increase of \$19.8 million, or 11.7%, from the current service level.

Expenditure reductions totaling just under \$1.5 million were made to remove excess funding from programs, for activities that were no longer being undertaken by the department, and for the elimination of vacant positions.

2023 Water package direct investments included in the budget bill total just over \$5.5 million, including \$1.5 million for the facilitation of water rights settlements with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and \$2.2 million to initiate the update to the statewide water availability model. \$15.9 million of American Rescue Plan Act expenditure limitation is carried forward to the 2023-25 biennium to continue projects and programs began in the prior biennium.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5043 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.