

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2010 Relating to water

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Pham

HB 2010 Contains the policy provisions for the 2023 water package. The measure combines certain provisions of fourteen introduced measures that include: a source drinking water protection grant program; expansion of eligible funding from the Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund; research into low-income rate payer assistance programs; implementation of the 1998 Stewardship and Supply Initiative; initiation of collaborative process for water management in the Chewaucan River watershed; modifying the process, content, and timeline for updates to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy; establishment of an agricultural water management technical assistance program; coordination and implementation of place-based water planning, including grant funding supporting place-based planning; changes to water examiner certification eligibility; addressing barriers to development of water reuse or recycled water programs and projects; funding a study of the needs and vulnerabilities of small and very small community water systems; providing authority to the Water Resources Department to require water use reporting when water use is required to be measured; allowing for grants from the Water Supply Development Fund to be provided more often than once annually; establishment of an aquifer recharge due diligence and testing grant program; grants to soil and water conservation districts for wester juniper removal and the monitoring of the effectiveness of those activities by Oregon State University; grant funding to the High Desert Partnership for design and maintenance of wet meadow, wetland, and lake conditions on the Silvies and Donner and Blitzen Rivers floodplains, at Malheur Lake and in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge;

and, support for the creation of voluntary groundwater agreements in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern.

Fiscal provisions in the amendment include total appropriations of \$17.1 million General Fund for these items and \$6 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation for General Fund monies that are used to capitalize statutory funds created under the measure.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 2010 be amended by the –6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.