

WATER LEAGUE

*The mission of Water League is to engage
the public in the stewardship of water.*

P.O. Box 1033
Cave Junction, OR
97523

chris@waterleague.org
(541) 415-8010

January 27, 2023

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair

Board of Directors

President

Gerald Allen

Vice President

John L. Gardiner

Secretary

Tracey Reed

Treasurer

Linda Pace

Christine Perala Gardiner

William Joerger

Gordon Lyford

Executive Director

Christopher Hall

RE: Water League supports HB 2971 to support farmers who lease their water for in-stream use.

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Committee Members,

Water League supports tax relief for farmers who fallow their land and lease the appurtenant water for in-stream use.

Acknowledging that land is still employed for farm use while it lays fallow for a prolonged period makes sense if the farmer uses the water that would otherwise irrigate that land for in-stream use programs. Why? Both farmers and Oregon water are under intense pressure, and HB 2971 alleviates stress on both. This bill feeds two birds with one seed.

Thank you,

Christopher Hall

Executive Director