

Submitter: Phillip Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB455

I'm writing to support SB455. I have long been a proponent of the State to be more proactive in solving complex water resource issues through taking a role in developing subsurface storage projects. Frequently, additional storage is the solution to many of the State's water resource problems, but there has been no support for projects beyond the 1069 feasibility studies, and assistance is needed. Other states administer grant programs to expand storage solutions, and Oregon should do the same. The State has had a role in some of the water supply issues that we face, and I believe that the State has a responsibility to help implement solutions. There needs to be more tools in the toolbox than shutting off users to protect senior rights, or waiting on long Federal studies that typically focus on above-ground reservoirs and their inevitable environmental impacts.

I would like the committee to ensure the definition of applicant can include private entities such as larger organized groups of irrigators for instance to access funds under this program if the project is designed (or scaled) to address a regional supply issue. I do not believe storage grants should be available to private parties to solve single-use or single-property supply problems.

Thank you,  
-Phil Brown.