

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
On SB 455**

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Founded in 1968, the **Oregon Environmental Council** (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 455.

In the face of megadroughts, dramatic changes to precipitation patterns, overallocation of limited groundwater resources, and heightened competition for what unallocated groundwater remains, it is clear we must turn to new technologies and new approaches for adapting to our hydrologic constraints. Aquifer recharge is one of those new technologies, and we are lucky that in Oregon there are some willing to invest time, energy and money in testing this new approach.

Unlike surface water, it can be difficult to identify the boundaries of a groundwater aquifer, challenging to quantify how much water it holds or is capable of holding, and hard to determine how amenable to recharge the water body is. Where the foundational work has been done, supporting pilot projects to test the suitability of an aquifer for recharge is well worth the investment.

The ongoing monitoring and testing required to glean accurate quantification of pilot project results is expensive, and can be prohibitively expensive. We would not want to see a viable opportunity for aquifer recharge left unexplored due to financial constraints on the project.

SB 455 gives qualifying groundwater basins the opportunity to test this technology, quantify the results of the tests, and submit those results to the state to prove up the ability of the recharge project to deliver on the recharge goal.

OEC strongly urges you to support SB 455, and promote aquifer recharge where economically and environmentally appropriate.