

Dear Members of the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

My name is Penelope Kaczmarek. Other than for school, I've lived in Lincoln County for 68 years, raised a family here, worked here, served on various community boards and continue to be profoundly grateful for the good life I've been privileged to have here.

Full disclosure: I presently serve on the coordinating committee for the Midcoast Water Planning Partnership, am a member of the Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance and the Coast Range Association but am not representing these entities in this matter.

As a big believer in the Place based Planning Process I was surprised and concerned to have only yesterday learned of last Friday's plan to hold the hearing for the very big HB 3211 on Tuesday.

I believe it likely that with sufficient notice, representatives from some of our municipalities, water districts, possibly the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, the County and various citizens may have wished to comment prior to the hearing.

As you may know and as Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife will attest, Lincoln County's Siletz River, from which Newport and other Lincoln County water users draw their water, is imperiled. Its salmonid populations are vastly diminished in part due to industrial logging practices, and also as a result of significant, under regulated, multiple municipalities' water withdrawals particularly doing the low flow high need summer and fall seasons.

More and more our fishery and tourism industries rely on the health of the Siletz.

I would ask that the committee please consider introducing language that would include a binding guarantee/responsible commitment from the City of Newport that it will not withdraw water from the Siletz beginning in June and not ending until our rainy season has commenced in November.

Also that the City of Newport will not sell or transfer stored water unless specifically to replace others' Siletz water withdrawals and that all water transferal be strictly metered.

Just as Newport has concluded that without a new dam risks to Newport residents are too great the City must also sufficiently acknowledge its awareness of risks to the Siletz River. With the House Committee's help It may do so by developing and adhering to enforceable conditions such as those suggested above, that as with the dam, are aimed at reducing risk and restoring health.

Thank you for your attention and for your all your work on our behalves,

Penelope Kaczmarek
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