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RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3163

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) in support of House Bill 3163. OCA represents ranchers across the state of Oregon and works to promote environmentally and socially sound cattle industry practices by maintaining an active political presence in related areas. Water is a critical and precious resource for sustaining animal life and producing food and valuable byproducts for the State and the world.

Local and regional water planning is essential to ensure present and future water needs are met, especially during this time of prolonged drought. OCA supports HB 3163 because it establishes a water planning fund for the purpose of funding place-based planning efforts. It is important that place-based planning is completed and regularly updated across the State, and that such plans are then implemented by the State and local entities. HB 3163 does not address implementation of completed plans, but does provide necessary funding to allow place-based planning to proceed.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association thanks the Committee for its consideration of this important bill. We ask that the committee vote to pass the bill.

Sincerely,



Sarah Liljefelt
Water Resources Committee Chair
Oregon Cattlemen's Association