



March 2, 2023

TO: Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: Please Support HB 3222

Greetings, Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today in support of moving forward HB 3222. As Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Biologist, I've had the privilege to participate in a nationally recognized collaborative effort. Portland Audubon has been involved in the Harney Basin since 1908, and in the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative since its inception over a decade ago. Through the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative, partners have successfully completed projects that benefit the eco, social, and economic systems of the Harney Basin.

As a rural Oregonian, I've lived most of my life in conflicted landscapes. All too often issues surrounding conservation create strife in a community. But, here, in the Harney Basin, conservation groups, ranchers, farmers, agencies, and other stakeholders have gathered together to address issues such as invasive carp degrading waterfowl brood-rearing habitat on Malheur Lake to maintaining flood-irrigated wet meadows for migratory and breeding birds. As the importance of creating climate resilient eco, social, and economic systems becomes ever clearer, we've also shifted our work to incorporate climate resiliency into our work in the Harney Basin. With support from HB 3222, collaborators can continue important work preserving the critically important wetland habitats, while benefitting the local economy, in the Harney Basin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa O. Wicks, PhD
Eastern Oregon Biologist
Portland Audubon
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