



Oregon Lakes Association
<https://www.oregonlakes.org>

7 March, 2023

Chair Ken Helm and Vice-Chair Mark Owens
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Topic: Support for HB 3099-1

As a participant of the ongoing collaborative discussion on water issues concerning Lake Abert and the Chewaucan Valley, Oregon Lakes Association would like to express its strong support for HB 3099-1.

We have high confidence that mediated discussions organized by Oregon Consensus and Oregon State University will move us to consensus decisions regarding water use. We anticipate a future that allows more water to flow into the ecologically critical Lake Abert while also making Chewaucan Valley agriculture more sustainable in the face of a drying climate.

We strongly support the allocation of funds that allow the Water Resources Department, with the support of other state agencies, to develop a refined water budget for the Chewaucan River watershed, which includes Lake Abert. Only with such a budget in hand can fair, rational and sustainable decisions regarding water use be made.

We are grateful for the support by Rep Owens' office of the recent preparatory discussions that have made a collaborative solution in the Chewaucan/Abert a feasible goal. This was the conclusion of the recent Oregon Consensus/OSU Assessment Report. We believe that investment of funds at this time will ensure progress in saving both Lake Abert, one of Oregon's critical natural resources, and Chewaucan agricultural livelihoods. These outcomes will be in the best interests of all Oregonians. OLA looks forward to continued participation in discussions and stands ready to offer technical assistance during the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theo Dreher".

Theo Dreher,
President, for the OLA Board of Directors & the OLA Lake Abert Conservation Committee