



Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 58

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

Ochoco Irrigation District is situated in the Heart of Oregon in Crook County. OID provides water to over 20,000 irrigated acres and nearly 900 patrons. The District owns Ochoco Reservoir and operates Prineville Reservoir under contract with US Bureau of Reclamation. These facilities rely almost exclusively on annual snowmelt runoff to store water to meet the water needs of irrigators, fish and wildlife, recreation, City of Prineville, and others. Prineville Reservoir is currently at an historic low level.

OID and Crook County continue to suffer from historic and prolonged drought. The Governor has already declared a drought emergency for Crook County for 2023. This is the fourth year in a row that Crook County has been declared as a drought emergency. According to the latest US Drought Monitor, Crook County continues to be characterized as the most severe form of drought (D4). We now hold the unfortunate distinction of being the only area in the entire Western United States with this "Exceptional Drought" characterization.

I am writing to request your support for SB 58.

As more demands are placed on our natural resources it's imperative that the state begins to investigate ways to not only protect our natural resources but also to enhance them particularly when it comes to water. SB 58 was written to investigate the opportunity that cloud seeding could bring to drought-stricken basins throughout Oregon. Cloud seeding isn't a silver bullet to resolve drought but can be used as a tool to help mitigate the effects of drought.

Over half of the states in the western US have some form of cloud seeding programs and/or have taken part in some form of cloud seeding. Comprehensive studies and data reviews of the environmental effect of the use of silver iodide for cloud seeding all concur that there is no evidence for adverse effects to human health or the environment from the use of silver iodide for cloud seeding.

Oregon farmers need water supply certainty to remain competitive in national and world markets. We must find ways, conventional or unconventional, to balance climate variability when it comes to ensuring Oregon agriculture remains productive. We would all be remis, given current water supply scenario's throughout the state, if we didn't take the opportunity to begin to investigate methods that can help alleviate perennial water shortages - SB 58 does just that.

I support legislation that calls for the investigation into cloud seeding in Oregon. Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bruce Scanlon
Manager
Ochoco Irrigation District

It is OID's mission to effectively and efficiently serve the current and future irrigation needs of our patrons by economically operating and maintaining the districts resources with honesty and integrity.