

Submitter: Matt Erickson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB2765

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I had the unique privilege of growing up in rural SW Oregon where I developed a connection to the land through fishing and hunting. In many ways the education I received on those rivers far surpassed anything our school system could have provided me. As the years passed I have watched with concern as Pacific Northwest salmon and other aquatic species have dwindled to very low numbers, it's a helpless feeling.

My understanding is that HB 2765 would essentially privatize water that leaves the Sanitary District's outflow pipe, and grant a valuable authority to the District, allowing them to sell or control that water. Under Oregon law, water is owned by the public. This bill would grant that valuable water to the District – for free – so they can sell it and keep the revenue. I fear if the Legislature passes this bill, soon every wastewater treatment plant will realize that they too can ask the Legislature to privatize water leaving their pipes, and fish habitat will continue to deteriorate.

As water will continue to become scarce in the future I'm forced to wonder how we will preserve our unique natural resources and wildlife species for succeeding generations - my kids and their kids. These resources have provided countless Oregonians with priceless experiences over the years, it's time to uphold our end of the relationship and advocate for them. One sided relationships don't work.

Thank you for your time.