



WaterWatch of Oregon

Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

HB 2984

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon by Kimberley Priestley

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water **February 4, 2025**

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers and aquifers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch urges support of HB 2984

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund provides an important source of funding for projects that implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, by protecting fish, wildlife and their habitats. OCRF also funds related to outdoor education and recreation. Since the fund was established in 2019, it has funded 167 projects across the state, helping both nature and communities.

This funding program holds a unique role in Oregon's funding portfolio and we urge the committee to support HB 2984 and allocate \$1.5 million to OCRF so it can continue to fund important work across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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