

Submitter: Nancy Orr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5543

I strongly urge the committee to support funding the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) at the current service levels. The Governor's recommended budget is completely inadequate to provide the effective science and data driven water management that Oregonians rely upon to protect our water supply and the health of our aquifers, rivers and streams.

The lack of water inventory data and adequate analysis staff were historically chronic problems at OWRD. Oregon's lack of data related to water security was thoroughly investigated and reported by The Oregonian in 1922. Perhaps the Governor was not paying attention. I strongly oppose the Package 090 Reductions Related to Data and Services. WATER DATA IS THE CORNER STONE OF RESPONSIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT.

Please support the two Package 090 Additions, which will further improve OWRD's work to establish a water use and tracking system. The second package will allow investment in adjudicating critical water use and water rights legal cases.

Please support the OWRD agency request policy action packages. All are essential services. Package 107, Strategic Modernization of IT Systems and Tools, speaks to the need for solid data to responsibly manage Oregon's finite water resources. Package 111, Improving Accessibility of Agency Website, is needed to provide critical water management information to the public and ensure agency transparency.

I urge you to send OWRD into the 25-27 biennium fully staffed, with a nimble IT system and data to effectively manage and protect Oregon's precious water resources.

Thank you for your consideration.