

Submitter: Colleen Roberts
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3419

I am writing about my concerns on HB 3419 -2, -3 amendments, and am very concerned about the open door for Oregon Water Resources Department to put meters on domestic wells. I have attended nearly every OWRD work session for the past six months, only to hear that they have a shortage of funds, resources, and staff. This bill will continue to grow the agency and the budget and, in the end, doesn't really accomplish their intent of managing and protecting our water resources. Increased user fees and taxes (to support the Water Resources Department) have been a constant point of discussion (and contention) for these past few months of work sessions and meetings, and of course, this would, no doubt, become another fee to implement more growth and bureaucracy in a department that is severely underwater, so to speak! Private, domestic wells should not be a slush fund for the State. Well drillers and users were actively involved in the work session meetings, and I thought they were heard, but this bill is not reflective of any of those discussions from the user groups.

Please do not pass HB 3419 -2, -3. Domestic wells for households in our State, should not be metered.

Sincerely,

Colleen Roberts

Jackson County Commissioner