



City of Hood River
211 2nd Street
Hood River, OR 97031

Farmers Irrigation District
1985 Country Club Road
Hood River, OR 97031

Crystal Springs Water District
3006 Chevron Drive
Hood River, OR 97031

Middle Fork Irrigation District
8235 Clear Creek Road
Parkdale, OR 97041

Ice Fountain Water District
1375 San Giorgio Road
Hood River, OR 97031

East Fork Irrigation District
3500 Graves Road
Hood River, OR 97031

February 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife

RE: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 427

To Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, Senator Girod, Senator Prozanski, and Senator Taylor,

The City of Hood River, Farmers Irrigation District, Crystal Springs Water District, Middle Fork Irrigation District, Ice Fountain Water District, and East Fork Irrigation District provide agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial water throughout the Hood River Valley. We are submitting joint comments based on our shared knowledge of water management in the Hood River Basin, as well as our shared acknowledgement of the collaboration and flexibility that will be needed within our region to continue to serve the needs of our community over the next century.

As water managers, we know how critical the ability to transfer places of use, points of diversion, and points of appropriation can be to addressing changing service needs, balancing a diversity of in-stream and out-of-stream uses, building climate change resiliency, and more. Senate Bill 427's establishment of a both vague and broad approval standard ("diminishment of streamflow") for these transfers, whether temporary or permanent, significantly complicates our ability as a Basin to plan for and enact a secure water future for our community, economy, and environment. The transfer process under current requirements (no enlargement, no injury) can already be difficult and unpredictable, potentially resulting in protests that remain unresolved for years to decades. Adding an additional standard, especially an additional standard that would be basically impossible to address without significant data collection and analysis, creates a significantly more complicated, unpredictable, expensive, and litigious process.

With the closure of most basins to new surface and ground water appropriations, the State faces a very different water landscape going forward; one where flexibility, clarity, and responsiveness will be required. Water users

and water managers need the ability to address a changing landscape through the improved implementation of existing enlargement/injury standards, not the creation of additional hurdles.

We urge you to vote against Senate Bill 427, and look forward to engaging in future conversations around improving the efficiency and predictability of Oregon's water rights management processes.

Thank you,

City of Hood River

Crystal Springs Water District

East Fork Irrigation District

Farmers Irrigation District

Ice Fountain Water District

Middle Fork Irrigation District