

WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public
in water stewardship.*

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In Memoriam
John L. Gardiner

February 26, 2025

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair
Representative Sarah Finger McDonald, Vice-Chair
Representatives Court Boice, Annessa Hartman, Bobby Levy, Pam Marsh,
Susan McLain, Anna Scharf

RE: Water League supports HB 3106, which funds the Oregon Water Data
Portal project.

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and
committee members,

Water League engages the public in water stewardship because the waters of
Oregon belong to all citizens, and they wish to hold water in trust. We recognize
that land and water are one system that flora, fauna, and humans depend on.

HB 3106 would appropriate funding to the Department of Environmental
Quality (DEQ) to continue the development of the Oregon Water Data Portal
(OWDP). The OWDP is a visionary project that has been through the initial
four-year scoping and project planning phases leading to the release of the pilot
web pages. The OWDP includes the collaboration of more than 23 agencies and
organizations and several states.

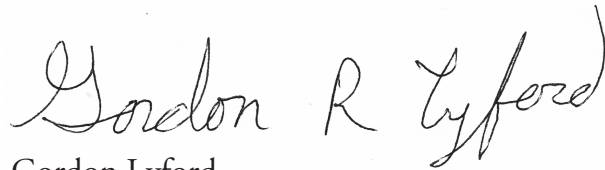
So far, the OWDP is impressive and complicated. Having all water data on
one platform and in one standard format will be a huge step forward. Funding

the OWDP is the next logical step in managing the large data sets. The improvements will not end as further research and reports populate across the many facets of the database. The OWDP uses a blend of experienced staff from multiple agencies and diverse funding sources to produce a unique and useful product. We have used the pilot portal and found that it is impressive and will be a valuable resource to thousands of users.

We note that a few opponents testified that they object to the OWDP being housed at DEQ. That is an odd critique because the OWDP is a cooperative effort that benefits many agencies and the public; DEQ is a competent and well-staffed agency suited for the task and responsibility. Since computers move data around the Internet, we suspect few users will wonder about or be flummoxed by the location of the headquarters.

Water League strongly supports the approval of HB 3106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon R Lyford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gordon Lyford

Board Member CWRE #341