



CITY OF BEND

March 11, 2025

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**CITY MANAGER**

Eric King

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of Bend Supports HB 3806

Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee:

The City of Bend supports HB 3806 as it provides an innovative tool to expand voluntary market-based transactions to meet multiple water needs in the Deschutes Basin.

The City of Bend has a long history of deep collaboration with partners in the Deschutes Basin, working towards strategies that ensure a sustainable water future- for growing communities, rivers, and farmers. Surface water in the Deschutes Basin is over-allocated. New groundwater rights can only be approved under the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program. To meet growing community needs, cities rely on securing mitigation credits through voluntary water transactions with existing water rights holders.

The water bank pilot proposed in HB 3806 builds on past collaborative successes in the Deschutes Basin. It expands the use of voluntary market-based transactions and supports continued generation of mitigation credits through the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program. The City of Bend supports this bill as another important tool to meet water needs and support basin goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mike Buettner



**Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**  
You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Mike Buettner at [mbuettner@bendoregon.gov](mailto:mbuettner@bendoregon.gov) or 541-213-1911. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

