



Bend, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Maupin  
Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters & Central Oregon Counties

March 11, 2025

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

Re: Central Oregon Cities Organization Supports HB 3806

Co-Chair Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3806. COCO supports HB 3806 as it provides an innovative tool to expand voluntary market-based transactions to meet multiple water needs in the basin.

COCO 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. COCO supports this bill as another important tool to meet water needs and support basin goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Fitch', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ed Fitch  
COCO Chair – Redmond Mayer

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Kebler', with a stylized, cursive script.

Melanie Kebler  
COCO Vice-Chair – Bend Mayor

---

Chair Ed Fitch  
Central Oregon Cities Organization  
Email: [ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:ed.fitch@redmondoregon.gov)

Doug Riggs, Lobbyist  
NW Policy  
(503) 702-5120 [doug@nwpolicy.com](mailto:doug@nwpolicy.com)