

The logo for the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) features a stylized 'COIN' acronym on the left, where the 'C' and 'I' are blue and the 'O' and 'N' are red. To the right of the acronym, the words 'CONSOLIDATED OREGON' and 'INDIVISIBLE NETWORK' are stacked in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB 3343

Date: April 3, 2025

Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) **supports HB 3343, a bill to provide much-needed tools to help the state improve data collection on critical water resources.** COIN is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that work together to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN members value science and the use of data to make wise decisions. The current situation in Oregon is that equipment for measuring and monitoring streamflow and water usage is inadequate. As many parts of our state face increasing drought conditions and water resources become more scarce, the importance of accurate data will be critical in ensuring that our water resources are protected for the immediate and distant future.

It can't be emphasized enough that water in Oregon belongs to the public. Many of the testimonies opposing this bill demonstrate an incorrect belief of some landowners that water running through their property belongs to them and it is somehow their right to use it as they see fit. Thankfully, this is not the law for many good and obvious reasons, and the State of Oregon has the responsibility of managing our public waters so that we all have the water we need, now and in perpetuity. It's impossible to manage our water resources if we don't know how much there is or how it's currently being used, thus the need for HB 3343.

We ask that you pass HB 3343 for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles

on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

www.coinoregon.org