

Walla Walla River Irrigation District

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Joint Committee Ways and Means

Dear Committee

Good Evening Chairs Sanchez and Lieber, Vice Chairs, and Honorable Members of the Committee. Thank you for making the trip to Eastern Oregon. We are very appreciative of your time and the opportunity to speak to you this evening. My name is Travis Trumbull and I am the District Manager of the Walla Walla River Irrigation District in Milton Freewater, as well as a Walla Walla 2050 Strategic Plan (Walla Walla 2050) Basin Advisory Committee member representing Oregon Agriculture

The Walla Walla River Irrigation District consists of approximately 2900 acres of orchards, vineyards, row crops, pasture and livestock. We irrigate those acres with surface water from the Walla Walla River. Our surface water rights are the oldest in the basin, after the 1855 Treaty Rights. For well over 40 years, patrons of the district have adjusted irrigation methods, crop types and farming practices to keep up with available technologies, fast changing economics and the inevitable, continued strain on water that has other uses and needs besides just irrigated agriculture. Cognizant of our other basin partner's needs, communication, understanding and mutual respects has guided and will continue to drive our efforts.

The Walla Walla 2050 Strategic Plan was created collaboratively with the Oregon, Washington, The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, irrigators and other basin stakeholders to provide guidance for water management in the Walla Walla Basin. The passage of WA HB 1322 in 2023 and OR SB 1567 in 2024, created legal, foundational components that recognize, honor and protect long fought efforts that have been made over the prior century but proved futile because of the invisible, yet problematic stateline.

Building upon this strong foundation initially introduced by Senator Hansell and Representative Levy, we are grateful for Senator Nash and Representative Levy's continued belief, support and leadership for Walla Walla 2050 Strategic Plan priority initiatives. We ask of the Joint Ways and Means Committee to continue this momentum by providing the requested \$2.5 million for Walla Walla 2050 priority projects in Oregon. This funding request would match the State of Washington's \$2.5 million commitment to the Walla Walla Basin. This funding request will provide much needed implementation dollars to projects that will have direct, positive impacts to municipal, environmental, fishery, Tribal and farming activities.

There has been a tremendous amount of work performed to date and there is still a tremendous amount of work ahead of us. Collaboration and a shared vision of what the future can hold if we all work together will continue to guide our efforts. We can only achieve these goals with your help.

Thank you for your consideration of this request as well as for your time this evening

Walla Walla River Irrigation District – Board of Directors