

Submitter: Erick Keerins
On Behalf Of: Blitzen-Voltage area farmers
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4049

What we're asking for is to have a voice in our water future. This was promised to the people of our basin for 10 years. Nearly every farmer in our part of the basin is onboard with a voluntary agreement. We are all small family farmers and also domestic well users. We are good neighbors and responsible stewards of our land and water resources. We want to be here for many generations to come. We believe that if the state works with us we will see better outcomes for Oregon. We did not know until May of this year that the Department thought there was a problem in our area because they had been telling us the opposite for a decade. Now that they're telling us that there's a problem we want to be a part of the solution. We have abundant groundwater resources in our part of the basin. There is much more groundwater coming into our part of the basin than is being pumped and groundwater has not declined in most of our wells. We're asking for a chance. The Department keeps telling us that they want to partner with us and then finds ways to counteract our efforts. We want to move forward together and HB 4049 will help us do that. Thank you for your support.