



700 SW Taylor Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97205
503.222.9091 MAIN OFFICE
www.thefreshwatertrust.org

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Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

May 18th, 2017

Subject: Bradshaw Drop piping project - request for state funding (lottery bond).

To: Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Representative Paul Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: SB 5530 - Testimony in Support of Lottery funds for the Bradshaw Drop Irrigation Canal Piping Project

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

The Freshwater Trust is an Oregon based conservation organization that currently works on a number of local restoration programs including riparian and in-stream fish habitat projects for the Southern Oregon, Northern California Coastal Coho (SONCCC) Biological Opinion. The Freshwater Trust is a big believer in innovative approaches that create win-wins for local economies and the environment – of which canal piping is a great example.

The Freshwater Trust is highly supportive of Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's request for funding that is needed to proceed with the Bradshaw Drop Piping Project. This project will improve water quality and fish habitat while reducing water loss and providing pressurized irrigation water to patrons within the delivery area. The project will also eliminate the need for aquatic weed control where the pipe replaces the open irrigation canal.

The Freshwater Trust strongly promotes water conservation, efficiency and fish habitat enhancement. The Bradshaw Drop Piping Project will leverage other work in an efficient manner, cost-effectively improving water quality and quantity, helping restore critical fish habitat in Little Butte Creek.

We at The Freshwater Trust strongly encourage the Oregon state legislature to fund this project in full.

Sincerely,

Denis Reich
Southern Oregon Programs
Director
503-213-0692
denis@thefreshwatertrust.org

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The Freshwater Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization and its tax ID is 93-0843521.