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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

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Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Natural Resources Subcommittee

Re: HB 3427 Relating to dams with high hazard ratings

Senator Girod: “HB 3427 requires owners or operators of a dam with a high hazard rating to develop an emergency action plan and file them with the Office of Emergency Management and local emergency services agencies. The bill does not apply to dams regulated under a dam safety program of a federal agency. The measure also requires the Water Resources Department to inspect dams with a high hazard rating annually, unless the department determines that a different inspection schedule is appropriate.

Oregon currently has 75 state-regulated high hazard dams; 58 of those have emergency action plans and 13 have early warning systems. High hazard dams are those where loss of human life is expected should the dam fail.

The budget bill for the Water Resources Department included an authorization to establish a permanent, full-time engineer position that had been a limited-duration position in the prior biennium, to support the existing inspection workload and the additional inspection workload anticipated from the passage of HB 3427. The position is funded from dam inspection fees and monies from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 3427 be reported out to pass.”