



February 8, 2018

To: Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Winters, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments

RE: Support for the Appointment of Katherine Kihara and Joseph Moll as members of the Water Resources Commission

Dear Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Winters, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments:

We are writing to voice our support for the appointment of Katherine Kihara and Joseph Moll as members of the Water Resources Commission. The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is a nonprofit association representing irrigation districts, water control districts, improvement districts, drainage districts and other government entities delivering agricultural water supplies. The water stewards we represent operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower production, and deliver water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon.

It is crucial that members of the Water Resources Commission have a diverse skillset so that they can properly provide guidance on water management policies and rules related to the Water Resources Department core functions “to protect existing water rights, facilitate voluntary streamflow restoration, increase the understanding of the demands on the state's water resources, provide accurate and accessible water resource data, and facilitate water supply solutions.” OWRC believes that Ms. Kihara and Mr. Moll have the necessary knowledge and strong public service ethic to be able to balance between the use of natural resources and the conservation of those resources for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Ms. Kihara's strong professional background includes 19 years as a public servant working for the U.S Bureau of Reclamation. During her time with Reclamation, Ms. Kihara worked on various issues at federal projects in the Crooked River, Deschutes, Umatilla, Wapinitia, The Dalles, Tualatin and Rogue River basins and has worked with irrigation districts all over the State of Oregon. Her vast knowledge of water infrastructure projects and grant management will make her an asset to the Water Resources Commission.

Joseph Moll has been working on collaborative conservation efforts in the McKenzie River basin for over 15 years at the McKenzie River Trust. His commitment to work with landowners and diverse partnerships to protect critical habitat and scenic lands in the McKenzie basin will advance the discussions currently being held by the Commission and the Water Resources Department on how best to meet all the water needs of our great state.

Kathy Kihara and Joseph Moll are commendable selections and will be complimentary to the other qualified and dedicated members of the Water Resources Commission. The diversity of their backgrounds, knowledge of project implementation and incentivizing collaborative conservation efforts, and enthusiasm for natural resources in Oregon will be a great addition. We respectfully request that you confirm the appointment of Kathy Kihara and Joseph Moll as members of the Water Resources Commission.

Sincerely,
April Snell
Executive Director