Klamath Irrigation District
6641 KID Lane
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
541-882-6661

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
State Capitol, Room H-490
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB-4016 (Helm) – Authorizing Changes to Determined Claims – Support

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to register my support for HB-4016, authored by Representative Ken Helm, which would authorize certain changes to determined claims in qualifying districts in the Klamath Reclamation Project (Project).

I work for Klamath Irrigation District (District), but – prior to my employment here – I worked for the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) for close to a decade. Much of my time with the Department was spent in the Klamath Falls office, first as an Assistant Watermaster, then as the Watermaster.

As I was making the transition from the Department to the District, one of the main issues I wanted to learn about was the Project's ability to implement a program like is proposed in HB-4016.

Having been at the district for several months now, I have surveyed the Project's ability to transfer determined claims as described in the Bill. We have measurement of water to each individual district. We have the staff to meet the mapping requirements. We have the structure in place to ensure the transferred lands no longer receive water.

HB-4016 would give the Project the much-needed flexibility to administer our already limited water supply in ways that promote conservation and responsible management. The Bill would, in no way, create a larger diversion than what is already allocated to the Project under the Biological Opinions of the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for your thoughtful approach to assisting the Klamath Basin. We greatly appreciate your support.

If you have any questions or require anything additional from us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tyler Martin
Klamath Irrigation District