



Oregon
Environmental
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It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony to the House Energy & Environment Committee
on HB 2084 Bill**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 2084.

The Water Resources Department grant program has supported four place-based coalitions to work collaboratively, bringing stakeholders together and using an effective structure to complete tangible work understanding the regional water supply and demand.

This place-based planning is occurring in five phases, 1) Build a collaborative and inclusive process, 2) Gather information to understand current water resources, 3) Examine current and future water needs for people, economy, and our environment, 4) Identify and prioritize strategic solutions, 5) Approve and implement a place-based integrated plan. Most of the planning partnerships are at stage three and are poised to develop plans and strategize implementation.

Building trust and long-term relationships regionally is key to the successful development and implementation of our state's water vision. Oregon Environmental Council supports a regional approach – we understand the varying needs of communities and ecosystems across the state, and believe that building on the success of these place-based strategies will ultimately help with responding to increasing scarcity of water and demands on our water infrastructure. We need to invest in a process that creates adaptive and resilient strategies to address climate change in practical and efficient ways for the coming years.

Oregon Environmental Council strongly supports these collaborative partnerships and supports extending the sunset to allow these projects to continue to address water quality and quantity, in and out of stream across the state.