

**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and the Environment
on House Bill 2851**

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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 strongly supports HB 2851.

HB 2851 allows the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to require water users to report their water use. It does not create a mandate for OWRD to do so.

Many but not all permitted water users in Oregon are required to measure and/or report their water use. Water users whose permits pre-date 1993 may be required by OWRD to measure their water, but currently the Department cannot require them to report those numbers.

It is often acknowledged that you cannot manage what you do not measure. In this instance, OWRD's ability to manage current water use and plan for our water future is constrained by not having access to accurate monitoring data.

HB 2851 will give OWRD the ability to require reporting where the Department deems it necessary for fulfilling its mandate to responsibly manage the state's water to directly address Oregon's water supply needs and to restore and protect streamflows and watersheds in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oregon's ecosystems, economy, and quality of life.

Oregon Environmental Council urges you to pass HB 2851.