

Sam @ <sweeneyfarm@aol.com>

To the Committee Members receiving Testimony on HB 2851

Dear Committee Members,

I am part of a family farm that grows a wide diversity of both irrigated and non irrigated crops in the mid Willamette Valley. I urge you to reject HB 2851 for the following reasons:

- It will require farmers to report water use and submit it to OWRD. The burden of this requirement will fall on the farmers who are extremely short of time during their busy season. The metering devices can break or report erroneous information which will result in inaccurate information analyzed by OWRD
- The staff at OWRD will need to input this data into some sort of database which will take time away from their other duties and responsibilities.

I question the value of this data and how it can be used in the future. There are other ways to acquire this information at a much reduced cost. It used to be, and maybe still is that the county extension agents used to annually report acreage's of various crops grown in their counties. Over the years, OSU extension has accumulated enough water requirements for these irrigated crops that agents can compute the general average water use in their counties on these crops. This could be reported to OWRD and should be sufficient for their needs.

Of a far greater need, OWRD needs to collect data in all of the water basins in Oregon on what water amounts are available or not available for future use and allocation. Planers here in Yamhill County are faced with making decisions on whether there is enough underground water available for processing grapes into wine. This is a critical need and OWRD needs to take the lead in evaluating quantities both underground and surface water in order for decision makers to plan adequately for the future.

Please reject HB2851. Farmers and OWRD do not need this extra burden to gather information, that if needed, could be gathered by other agencies at a much reduced cost.

Sincerely,

Sam Sweeney
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