

Watts Remy

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Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:19 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on SB 791

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

We would like to express our strong support for SB 791.

For OWRD to be able to regulate—off up to 140 wells, which affects 100 owners/irrigators, in the Upper Klamath Basin by stating that all surface water and ground water is hydraulically connected is wrong. They came up with this conclusion by using stream depletion computer models not actual site-specific science.

OWRD used one model in years 2014 through 2016 to regulate-off ground water usage and was challenged in court over that model. In 2017 OWRD switched to a different model and was again challenged in court. In 2018 OWRD switched again, back to Division 9 rules to regulate-off wells. Now in 2019 OWRD wants to resurrect and revise the Division 25 rules that were supposed to have died and gone away when the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement was given a “Negative Notice” by the Secretary of the Interior on December 28, 2017.

Irrigators in the Upper Klamath Basin do not know from one year to the next what to expect. OWRD, because of some agenda, is putting the agricultural community in the Upper Klamath Basin out of business. Where next in the state will this take place? The Willamette Valley?

No one is saying that absolutely no wells effect surface water sources but until each well is tested individually for surface water interference not one well should be turned off.

Please support SB 791 and support individual site-specific testing to allow agriculture in Oregon to exist.

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