



TESTIMONY ON HB 5030

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

April 19, 2019

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) supports investment in water conservation and water related infrastructure development in the state, and supports investment of lottery dollars to support this critical work. We were among the original supporters of creation of the Water Supply Development Account. Since creation of that account through SB 839 in 2013, the state has funded a number of critical water projects that are helping to further state goals around water conservation and water supply development. We strongly support continued investment in water supply and conservation, and urge the state to fund this program at the \$15 million level recommended in HB 5030.

However, due to a number of factors, the Water Supply Development Account has not funded the types of large scale storage facilities that were originally envisioned through SB 839, but instead has funded many smaller, but still important, projects. Further, while we strongly support increased investment in water supply funding, we have found the granting process for the Water Supply Development Account to be less than transparent, and it has not always been clear why some projects were funded at the expense of others. Due to the lack of transparency, it is not clear that program is being run as efficiently and effectively as we believe it could be. As such, we believe the time is ripe for a comprehensive review of how the Water Supply Development Account is working to achieve Oregon's water goals, whether any substantive or process changes are needed to the program, and whether the program is adequate to meet Oregon's significant water infrastructure needs.

Please contact Mary Anne Cooper at maryanne@oregonfb.org if you have any questions.