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Testimony on HCR 33

House Committee on Rules

Submitted by: Jena Carter, Oregon Coast and Marine Director, The Nature Conservancy

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 33.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a science-based and non-partisan conservation organization. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC has over 70,000 supporters statewide with members in every county in Oregon, and our staff work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions to the challenges facing people and nature.

Many challenges are impacting Oregon's water quality and quantity, including climate change, aging infrastructure, over-allocation, toxic algae blooms, pollution, sedimentation, and more. HCR 33 calls for engaging stakeholders from diverse water interests to examine these challenges and inform the development of a 100-year vision to secure a more resilient water future.

Because TNC believes that all Oregonians deserve clean and reliable water now and into the future, we support HCR 33. We concur with the recommendation in HCR 33 to use the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (2017) as a starting point for that discussion. In addition, we hope other issues will be brought into the dialogue including natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions. We also encourage the stakeholder effort to explore potential funding mechanisms that can help finance a water investment package as well as opportunities that may materialize if Congress passes a federal infrastructure bill.

In closing, TNC supports HCR 33 and encourages you to move this forward with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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