

May 1, 2019

Chair Holvey,
Vice Chairs Williamson & Wilson, and
Members of the House Rules Committee

RE: HCR 33

For the Record, I am Susan Morgan, Natural Resources Policy Manager for AOC

Since 1906, the Association of Oregon Counties has served as a forum for information sharing, consensus development and discussion amongst our 36 counties. Water related issues have long been a focus in the natural resources policy arena at AOC.

AOC supports HCR 33.

We appreciate the vision of the Resolution. It is time for Oregonians to develop a long-range, broad based strategy that will ensure a supply of water to meet our diverse needs into the future.

A model for this may be found in Oregon's transportation planning structure. ODOT has overall responsibility for the management of the state highway system. To aid ODOT in this charge, within each region, there is a broad-based group of stakeholders (ACTs), including county commissioners, who work to prioritize and recommend regional investments that become part of the state wide plan for maintaining and modernizing the transportation system.

A collaborative, regionalized approach to planning, perhaps organized by broad river drainage regions, will recognize the differing supply, storage, and use needs across our state, and take advantage of the expertise that is available in each region.

The beginning of this is already happening. Place-based water planning is growing a collaborative and educated broad-based group of stakeholders. Each of the place-based groups is different from the others, but the result of their efforts will be a plan that is broad based and has broad support. County Commissioners are active in place-based planning and recognize the value of the approach.

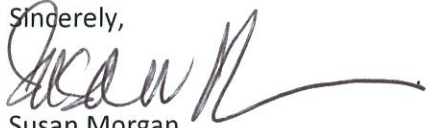
Water, as this body is well aware, is a contentious issue at all levels of government. Since AOC was formed, water issues have been at the forefront of our concerns. AOC has long-held principles that help chart our path on water issues, and they may be helpful to this discussion.

1. Gain and support a formal relationship with agencies and individuals with significant roles in establishing and implementing water policy in this State;
2. Ensure a sustainable, clean and adequate water supply for current and future residents, agriculture, other industries and the natural environment in a way that reduces waste and encourages conservation;
3. Support the regionalization of adaptive management policies and laws; and
4. Apply these values:

- a. Collaborate
- b. Do no harm
- c. Apply sound, verified, peer-reviewed science
- d. Achieve balance
- e. Enhance public policy
- f. Look beyond individual county and state boundaries
- g. Look forward
- h. Stay positive
- i. Approach change incrementally
- j. Participate meaningfully in the policy-making process, and
- k. Take responsibility for developing solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 33

Sincerely,



Susan Morgan

Natural Resources Policy Manager
Association of Oregon Counties