



SYBIL ACKERMAN-MUNSON
CONSULTANT, ACKERMAN-MUNSON STRATEGIES LLC

House Rules Committee

Re: HCR 33
Position: Support

May 1, 2019

I am pleased to offer testimony representing Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) in support of HCR 33. Passage of HCR 33 is an important first step in supporting development of a comprehensive solution to Oregon's water needs now and into the future.

RLF is a nonprofit organization that works closely with philanthropists to conserve land, water, and ocean resources while advancing healthy communities and social equity. Since its founding, RLF has helped to generate more than \$26 billion for water, land, and ocean conservation in California and across the United States. RLF efforts include increasing public awareness for funding to improve water quality and quantity, watershed protection and restoration in Oregon that address critical needs to protect watersheds and provide for healthy communities.

RLF commissioned a poll in 2018 that found Oregonians are concerned about water quantity and quality. The poll confirmed 87% of Oregonians want to protect water quality in rivers, lakes, and streams. In addition, 85% were concerned with the contamination of groundwater and 81% wanted an adequate water supply in the future.

Increased funding for Oregon's water needs is overdue. Oregon's changing weather patterns are causing water shortages and pressure on our infrastructure and ecological systems. With the current funding level, Oregon is often unable to respond in a proactive and resilient way. Simply put, Oregon's aging infrastructure is not up to the challenge and more funding is needed to help communities proactively build resiliency into their systems.

Stakeholders, legislators, and agencies are considering the form and function of a critical conversation over the next two years that will consider the prioritization of needs for water funding. To ensure the conversation moves forward productively, decisionmakers will need support from the legislature to collect and assess water needs to help identify solutions that can serve as models for future funding.

The 2019 -2021 biennium must build the momentum. To be successful, we need to identify water needs and discuss with Oregonians their top water priorities. With this information, stakeholders, the tribes, and decision-makers can craft an effective

funding package that is responsive to the true needs and priorities of Oregon. RLF therefore supports HCR 33 that is before you today as an important step in this process.

Sincerely,

Sybil Ackerman-Munson

Sybil Ackerman-Munson, Consultant on behalf of the Resources Legacy Fund