



House Bill 4069 - Support

To: House Committee On Water
From: Central Oregon LandWatch
Date: February 5, 2020

Dear Chair Helm:

On behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch, I would like to offer our support of HB 4069 (water reporting tools for OWRD) and urge the Committee on Water to vote in favor of the measure.

The measure offers the Oregon Water Resources Department a useful tool in regional water management in requiring certain water reporting requirements -- in circumstances where users are already measuring! Additionally, the bill simply grants OWRD this tool; it does not mandate that they utilize it.

Central Oregon LandWatch is concerned with the overall ecosystem in Central Oregon -- whether wild or urban, road or trail, house or butte. Each of these elements is intricately connected to the livability of our communities, the availability of our resources, and the quality of life for all of us. Water is a common need among so many elements of our state: residents, livestock, wildlife, food, timber... to name a few. Our collective prosperity turns on the proper management of our water resources, and that proper management turns on an availability of information and data about that resource.

With the kind of expanded data envisioned by HB 4069, the Water Resources Department will be able to:

- Refine availability models based on more accurate modeling,
- Better protect existing water rights holders through better information about historical use and injury determinations,
- More handily certify water rights by using updated data as evidence, and
- Promote infrastructure improvement projects that rely on specific and detailed data for ascertaining efficiency.

Central Oregon LandWatch supports HB 4069 and respectfully urges a YES vote.

Thank you.

Michael Selvaggio