



**KLAMATH IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

6640 K.I.D. LANE

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 97603

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To: Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the House Committee on Water

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3221, the Oregon Renewable Options Program

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

Klamath Irrigation District (KID) respectfully submits this letter in support of HB 3221.

Klamath Irrigation District provides water to over 53,000 acres of irrigated lands and more than 2,600 customers near Klamath Falls. Our complex delivery system also provides water for an additional 68,000 acres served by other irrigation districts. While our basin is well known for its water challenges, we are also home to some of the highest per capita numbers of young farmers and organic farms in Oregon.

KID's water delivery system supports the operation of a 1.1 megawatt hydropower project owned by third-party developer, which provides the district with steady, annual royalty payments that we use to off-set operations expenses. We also own and operate two 9 kilowatt solar projects that help to offset some of the district's energy costs associated with water pumping. We are currently exploring additional hydropower and solar opportunities as we look at modernizing our water delivery system to conserve water and energy, for the benefit of our farmers and the environment.

HB 3221 would give KID and the other districts in our Basin a new way to integrate renewable energy projects into our overall modernization efforts. We move a lot of water with electric pumps in our region. While solar can be used to offset pumping costs through net metering or the community solar program, sometimes the characteristics of a potential project don't quite line up with the policies that are currently available. For conduit hydro, there are even fewer pathways to make a project financially viable. The Oregon Renewable Options program would open up a new, more flexible option which we could use to help relieve the challenge that energy costs impose on farmers in our area.

KID respectfully asks for your consideration and support for HB 3221.

Sincerely,

Gene R. Souza  
Executive Director  
Klamath Irrigation District