



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 www.fidhr.org •

March 8, 2021

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:

Farmers Irrigation District (FID) respectfully submits this letter in support of HB 3221.

FID was founded in 1874. We provide water to 5,888 acres of high value farm land and 1,945 residential and agricultural customers in Hood River County. We operate a system of diversions, fish screens, canals, pipelines, pump stations, and hydropower turbines that were built over the past 150 years but greatly improved over the past 30 years thanks to our hydropower operations. Our farmers produce pears, cherries, apples, wine grapes, and many other crops, supporting an extensive network of agriculturally-related jobs in our area.

FID has worked hard over the past 30 years to modernize what was once a very inefficient water delivery system. In the mid-1980's FID incorporated two hydropower turbines within its water delivery system. These in-conduit hydropower turbines provided revenue to FID that allowed significant investments in modernization. Today, FID is able to efficiently deliver water to the farmers of the district with almost no loss. As we look forward, we see opportunity to continue to improve and modernize our irrigation system and to potentially provide valuable resilience and grid services. The market for the power generated by small, community scale projects like ours has drastically changed. We have very limited options for selling our power and we welcome additional opportunities that value the unique attributes of our projects.

HB 3221 would give our district the ability to market our power to a set of customers who would put a value on the local and environmental benefits our projects provide. Our farmers would be proud to produce renewable energy that could serve Oregon with local power, while helping to provide resilience to natural disasters and further the modernization of our water infrastructure.

Farmers Irrigation District respectfully asks for your consideration and support for HB 3221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Les Perkins", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Les Perkins
General Manager