

Middle Fork Irrigation District

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8 March 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:

The Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID) respectfully submits this letter in support of HB 3221.

MFID was founded in 1921. We provide water to 6,358 acres of high value crop land, predominantly producing pears, apples and cherries in the Upper Hood River Valley near the community of Parkdale. We operate a system that includes over 60 miles of pressurized water distribution pipe. For nearly 4 decades we have utilized this infrastructure to generate clean, renewable, locally produced, distributed energy. Revenue from our project directly supports an extensive network of agriculturally-related jobs in our area and environmental benefits.

MFID is actively pursuing the modernization of Clear Branch Dam and our water delivery system overall. Our goal includes increasing the reliability of our agricultural water supplies, supporting long-term jobs in our area, and benefitting Oregon's fish and wildlife.

HB 3221 would provide districts such as ours the ability to negotiate with Oregon communities to purchase the output of our renewable energy projects at rates that would put a value on the local and environmental benefits. Our growers are proud to produce renewable energy and HB 3221 will serve as another option for providing incentive to other water distribution entities to join the clean green renewable family. HB 3221 could serve Oregon with local power while helping to further the modernization of our water distribution organizations as they update their infrastructure.

The Middle Fork Irrigation District respectfully asks for your consideration and support for HB 3221.

Sincerely,


General Manager MFID