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March 16, 2021

To: House Committee on Water; others

Re: I OPPOSE [HB 2594]...as written...Any time "eminent domain" is mentioned, it means war is imminent.

[HB 2594] The, "Text:[Page 1 at (13-18)]" states, " (3) If a private landowner receives a request described in subsection (2) of this section and declines to negotiate or agrees to negotiate but declines an offer made by the water utility, with permission from the Director of the Oregon Health Authority, to acquire by purchase or agreement a conservation easement over the real property, the Oregon Health Authority may exercise the power of eminent domain under ORS chapter 35 to acquire a conservation easement over the real property."

Any easement, depreciates the value of the real estate in perpetuity.

How can OHA negotiate in "good faith" with the hammer of eminent domain in their back pocket?

[HB 2594] needs to be written and cleave the "eminent domain" language.

The aforementioned threatening language in **[HB 2594]** takes a great idea and trashes it.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall

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