

TALENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Date: March 2, 2021

1916-2016

To: Senator Jeff Golden

RE: Floor Letter in Support of SB 130, Extension of District Temporary Transfer Pilot Program

Dear Senator Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and Members of the Committee:

Talent Irrigation District is testifying in support of SB 130, which will extend a critical pilot program for fifteen districts, including ours.

Talent Irrigation District is a special district government organized under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 545 by order of the Jackson County Commissioners on May 22, 1916.

Irrigation water is provided to the District water users by an extensive collection, diversion, storage, and conveyance system. The District makes its water deliveries through 125 miles of canals and 113 miles of laterals.

The District provides agricultural water for commercial and residential irrigation to land included within its boundaries. The District consists of approximately 3,000 water users with 3,520 tax lots over 15,500 irrigated acres. The estimated annual usage is 55,000 acre feet. The dominant crop is forage (hay) followed by tree fruits, grapes, vegetables and other crops.

There are many benefits of participating in temporary transfer program to our district, including:

- Provides district with flexibility needed to best meet water needs within district
- More timely access for patrons to access available water for pending irrigation season
- Minimal paperwork for simple "on" and "off" transfers, helps reduce regulatory burden
- Reduced expense to district and patrons from unnecessary application fees
- Provides beneficial use and protects water rights from non-use
- Optimizes limited water supplies for use by farmers and ranchers, increasing economic production and food supply stability

The district temporary transfer pilot program provides numerous benefits to our district and other districts around the state. We urge you to pass SB 130 and extend the program to 2030.

Thank you for your support of SB 130.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Pendleton".

Jim Pendleton
Manager