

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District

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April 17, 2023

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman,
Re: House Bill 3124

I am writing this letter in support of HB 3124 with regards to a water call being made by the Klamath Tribes on Fourmile reservoir.

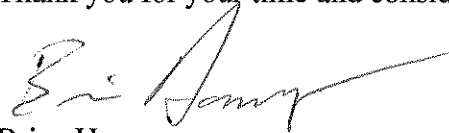
On March 10, 2023, the Klamath Tribes made a call on all tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake with a priority date junior to 1908. Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts are being called out of Fourmile reservoir with a 1910 priority date. We have utilized this water for our patrons for over 100 years, and now we find ourselves losing this valued reservoir.

In 2014 our Districts signed a Consent Order with Oregon Water Resources Department in settlement of a headgate installation order issued by OWRD. This headgate was not installed in 2014 (or in the subsequent years due) to the lack of technical support coordination from OWRD. OWRD was tasked with the design of the headgate and the engineering, that the districts never received. In March 2023, OWRD informed us that we must now design and install a bypass gate to allow water to pass into Fourmile Creek without OWRD's technical assistance.

Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts do not have an engineer on staff nor the expertise to develop such a structure, which must be incorporated into existing infrastructure that is more than 100 years old. Additionally, we anticipate needing to undertake a substantial federal permitting process before we are able to build the headgate or release water across Forest Service land.

This is why we are asking for you to support HB 3124 and the \$1 million dollars that Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts will need to comply with the Consent Order.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Brian Hampson
Secretary/Manager