Chair, vice-chairs, and members,

For the record, my name is Casey Kulla. I am formerly Yamhill County Commissioner, currently state forest policy coordinator for Oregon Wild, and always a first-generation farmer. I have both surface and ground water rights and a ground water registration. As commissioner, I facilitated our county water task force.

While there are many worthy components to this bill, I would like to take a step back and ask you to consider the stated and unstated policy implications of funding this package. Specifically, with every included bill and fund, I hope you will consider the massive & twin challenges of climate change and water inequality.

Regarding inequality in water, yesterday, Oregonians from Morrow and Umatilla County shared with you their drinking water, polluted with nitrates from farming and food processing. The same stories echo all across Oregon. Communities and individuals struggle to source enough clean water, while other communities, industry, and farms are rich with water. Tribes and fish struggle to obtain and exercise water rights, while other Oregonians simply purchase rights and move them. Please take a hard look at the proposed funding and ask "does this build a more fair and just water reality in Oregon?"

Regarding climate change, please note that many of the programs and proposals use the phrase "climate change" or the word "resilience" in them. But, very few water infrastructure projects do both: take into account a hotter, drier, more brittle, more extreme Oregon *and* build into plans the ability to bounce back from those now-inevitable extremes. Please take a hard look at your proposed funds and ask "does this plan mitigate or adapt to a hotter, drier, more extreme world for Oregonians and the planet?"

With limited funds and limited time, you have to prioritize which projects to fund. I'm here to help you. Thanks!

Casey Kulla
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