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**Scott Aycock**  
Community & Economic Development  
Director, COIC

**To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Aycock".

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**HB3142/3003** - Oregon Water Conservation & Stream Restoration Program urging Juniper removal.

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3142/3003. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is in **support** of HB3142/3003, as together these bills help meet a critical need in our region.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council's mission is to support the region as a trusted leader and partner, helping communities identify and address their unique and common needs through collaboration, shared service delivery, technical assistance, information sharing, and resource development. The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council has a long history of implementing and managing natural resources and environmental projects throughout the region. We are testifying in favor of the Oregon Water Conservation & Stream Restoration Program HB3142/3003.

This bill addresses the issue of widespread growth of the western Juniper across our landscape and the negative impacts on our watersheds, stream flows, sage grouse habitat, spawning and rearing habitat for our native fisheries, etc. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council serves Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties which are all impacted by the invasive Junipers. The invasive western Juniper can eliminate water for other species, natural habitat, groundwater accumulation, and reduce stream/spring flows in our sagebrush-steppe ecosystem. The expansion of western juniper has limited the economic and ecological potential of the Central Oregon region.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is in favor of proposal goals including:

- Help conserve water / restore streams and groundwater resources/counter drought impacts.
- Improve habitat for endangered sage grouse and other species.
- Provide a local source of renewable energy, utilizing Oregon's current renewable energy standards.
- Create jobs and economic benefits (to the Juniper treatment teams as well as for farmers, agricultural interests, etc.).

We appreciate your support for House Bill 3142/3003 to help us move forward in moving the region in a more prosperous direction helping to protect our valuable water resources for generations to come.

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