



**E. WERNER RESCHKE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 55

14 February 2023

TO: Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens & Hartman and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

RE: Support for HB 3142

I am writing to ask you to ask you to **support and pass HB 3142**.

Water is a constant topic with my local leaders, agriculture community and conservation groups. It is something we think about daily, plan for each year and work towards on a continual basis. HB 3142 attempts to give us **a new, evidence-based, and research proven tool** to address this issue.

**The science is clear**, in more than 3 dozen studies over the past four years. A summary of just a few of these studies can be found in OLIS. Overgrowth of Junipers is having a catastrophic impact on small streams, creeks, tributaries, and groundwater resources.

The mechanism in the bill takes advantage of organizations that **are required by Oregon statute** to focus on ecological health and water resources. ORS 568.550 is very clear, and the number one requirement for SWDCs in Chapter 2 of the statute is to prioritize ecological health.

What's more, SWDCs are already doing this exact work. One of the letters in OLIS suggested that somehow, these locally based conservation organizations weren't engaged in juniper efforts. But as you can see simply by looking at the draft target area maps placed in OLIS, they are already working with local counties, property owners, and using state and federal funds on very similar efforts. They know their regions, know the factors that impact "soil and water" health, and know the organizations in their local community who need to be engaged from day one.

HB 3142 is carefully crafted, designed to take advantage of existing local efforts and focused on water — which we all know must be a renewed focus for the legislature over the next few years. This idea can be implemented quickly, so that we can begin the process of restoring our ecosystems to their historic and natural state.

As a result, I'd urge quick passage of this bill.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Werner Reschke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**E. WERNER RESCHKE**  
State Representative, HD 55  
*The Crater Lake District*