



## TUALATIN VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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House Committees on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water;  
Chair Helm,

Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID) manages irrigation water delivery for up to 17,000 acres of farmland annually in Washington County. Currently, under OAR 690-385-2200, irrigation district staff can submit district water right transfers and certify some maps to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) without the requirement of employing a Certified Water Right Examiner (CWRE). Many of the requirements of CWREs also apply to irrigation district staff. TVID finds it burdensome and cost prohibitive to employ the services of a CWRE for some transfers while not needing to employ CWRE services for others, albeit the map requirements are generally the same.

Many irrigation district staff have extensive experience with mapping requirements and the transfer process through years of working with OWRD. Eligibility for district staff to sit for the CWRE exam is logical. HB 3187 does not change any exam components or other CWRE requirements. Further, HB 3187 would still reserve Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) as the regulatory authority for the CWRE certification. This would hold district staff awarded their CWRE certification to the same ethical standards as other CWREs.

The opportunity to sit for the CWRE exam would greatly benefit district operations while reducing the demand of the already limited pool of CWRE professionals currently available. Further, it can be argued that irrigation district staff possessing extensive experience with mapping requirements and the transfer process may be considerably more adept to prepare and submit transfer applications than other CWREs who might not possess the equivalent knowledge of Oregon Water Law and the transfer processes.

TVID asks for your support of HB 3187 to help districts more efficiently manage available water by allowing individuals with equivalent experience to qualify for the CWRE exam.

Respectfully,

Bobby Nuvolini  
Tualatin Valley Irrigation District