



February 20, 2023

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

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 3164 – In-Stream Leasing of Water Rights

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 3164 which makes permanent the ability to lease water in-stream on a split season basis during a given year with the condition that the existing water right use and in-stream water use are not concurrent. We believe that this is an important tool in making sure that our water resources are put to good use while giving special attention to the need to have sufficient water in streams to maintain healthy aquatic environments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Dean", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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