

Submitter: Kevin Chambers

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3163

In 2015, I co-authored a place-based water study grant submitted by the Eola-Amity Hills Winegrowers Association. That grant was not funded by the Oregon Water Resources Department, but the process provided me a broad discovery of all things water in Oregon and elsewhere. After writing the grant, I was recognized in the wine industry, where I worked on governance issues for most of my 42-year career, as an expert on water issues. But I know enough about water to know I really know very little.

Nothing is more important to life than water. And despite the copious amounts of rain that fall upon parts of Oregon, we have profound challenges to provide enough water to meet our present and future needs. I have participating in numerous water committees and conferences. In each and every case, questions are generated that have no answers. As a result, little gets done. We need more research, monitoring, and planning to address the unanswered questions. Water coupled with gravity make place-based planning the obvious approach to understanding the resource, needs, limitations, and opportunities. But there's no consistent funding to pay for such research. HB3163 is an excellent step toward providing consistent funding for place-based water planning. Such funds would be well spent for us to understand how best to govern water use.