

## **HB 3163 Place-based water planning, testimony:**

Good afternoon Chair, vice-chairs and members of the committee! For the record, I am Casey Kulla, farmer of irrigated vegetables on a river island in the Willamette, former Yamhill County Commissioner, and state forest policy coordinator for Oregon Wild.

With all of those hats on, I speak today in support of HB 3163. With my farmer hat on, I want to know if the aquifer can support my ground water use without harm to other users. As a county commissioner, I was keenly aware that we needed both additional tools for land use siting and drinking water flexibility, plus more data with which to make those decisions. And at Oregon Wild, we want to insure that there is sufficient clean and cold water for fish and amphibians.

We have to get better at managing our water resources in each unique place and that takes coordination between the state and local folks. There is a tremendous desire in communities to have water planning that reflects the unique community uses, water sources, and priorities. But that work needs data & expert support. HB 3163 moves those efforts forward.

However, I caution you in moving this bill without fully aligning the bill with the recommendations of the HB 5006 workgroup, and I hope you will consider a dash-one amendment to better match the work group final report and the comments of the Oregon Water Resources Department. Thank you for your time today!

Casey Kulla  
State Forest Policy Coordinator, Oregon Wild  
Former Yamhill County Commissioner  
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