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March 7, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Supports HB 3163

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) supports HB 3163 to continue and enhance state investment in Place-Based Planning.

For the past 23 years, COIC has supported our region in resolving complex natural resource management challenges by convening and facilitating collaborative, multi-stakeholder groups. Since 2019, we have worked with our partners at the Deschutes River Conservancy to build and staff the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC), a collaborative group composed of over 40 member organizations working to meet the water needs of agriculture, growing communities, and the Deschutes River. Together, the members of the DBWC are developing an integrated basin water management plan consistent with the state's framework for place-based planning. Given the water challenges ahead of us, further heightened by our current drought, we need continued state investment in place-based planning, and I would urge this committee to support this ongoing work.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,



Tammy Baney, Executive Director