

Submitter: Collin Cowsill
On Behalf Of: Jefferson County Agricultural Sector
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB58

Waning reliability on current/existing water resources east of the Cascades has given our communities a disheartening outlook for the future of economic development. Rural Ag-based communities in particular, provide our nation with food resiliency and shore up national security. These eastern Oregon communities (which are economic powerhouses) tend to be left out of the policy making framework of Oregon legislative priorities. An investment of Oregon resources into viability research of cloud-seeding would not only bring due benefit to central and rural Oregon communities, but benefit the state, nation, and the world at large. Jefferson County growers and producers generate vital food and seed resources to international markets, giving the state of Oregon a reputable standing at the global economic scale. Augmenting current, and sourcing new water supplies through innovative and forward thinking legislation like cloud-seeding research is a major step forward toward protecting the state of Oregon economy, our national security, and maintaining agricultural resiliency throughout global markets.