



Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 58

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

As President of the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 58 that calls for the investigation of cloud seeding in Oregon.

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control is comprised of the eight irrigation districts in rural Central Oregon that are critical to conveying water supplies throughout the Deschutes Basin to over 7,600 farm and ranch families, schools, and local parks and recreation districts.

Farming and ranching have long played important roles in Central Oregon. It was only natural for the first pioneers to settle close to the Deschutes River. Homesteaders without access to water tried their luck with dry farming, best described as a lottery considering the desert climate. No one ever said rural agriculture was easy work. But these days, the rural spirit that pioneered our country is at dire risk. Dwindling, uncertain water supplies are making it harder and harder for farmers to grow their crops, feed our communities, and keep rural values alive. Water is the life blood of Central Oregon and to preserve our traditional way of life, we must find ways, whether conventional or unconventional, to ensure water continues to flow for the good of farmers, the community, and the environment. Agriculture in Central Oregon is an economic driver and continues to contribute to the region's economy through job creation, capital investment, and reliable economic activity.

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control supports Senate Bill 58 and legislation that calls for the investigation into cloud seeding in Oregon.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Regards,

Craig Horrell, President
Deschutes Basin Board of Control

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Deschutes Basin Board of Control Member Districts
Arnold Irrigation District • Central Oregon Irrigation District • Lone Pine Irrigation District • North Unit Irrigation District
Ochoco Irrigation District • Swalley Irrigation District • Three Sisters Irrigation District • Tumalo Irrigation District
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