

Submitter: Juliette Wait
On Behalf Of: Save Chehalem Mountain Inc
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure: HB2929

March 24, 2023

TO: The Honorable Pam Marsh and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water.

Representative Pam Marsh,

On behalf of SAVE CHEHALEM MOUNTAIN, a locally organized non-profit organization established to ensure that the Chehalem Mountain watershed area provides the quality, environmental stability and fire protection necessary to support the homes, businesses, fish, wildlife, recreation, biological diversity ecological values, public health and a sound economy.

As a rural area, we all rely on our domestic wells for our water which is currently being stressed by extreme drought conditions as evidenced by a total lack of stream flow in Chehalem Creek during summer months. Chehalem Mountain Limited Groundwater Area remains the primary source to sustain our lives, lifestyles and agri-businesses, as well as to maintain sensitive, threatened and endangered fish species. It is in the public greater good to allow better protection of this resource. We urge you to vote YES with a "Do Pass" recommendation for HB-2929, providing Oregon Water Resources Department the capability to take immediate legal action to suppress illegal appropriation of this precious commodity across the entire state of Oregon.

With Best Regards,

Juliette Wait, MD
Save Chehalem Mountain, Inc