



KLAMATH IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Chair Ken Helm
Vice-Chair Annessa Hartman
Vice-Chair Mark Owens
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 2765, South Suburban Sanitary District

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

Klamath Irrigation District supports House Bill 2765 to incentivize the reuse of treated wastewater by the South Suburban Sanitary District. There are numerous benefits to this action which improve conditions of the watershed without incurring costs to the Oregon taxpayer.

Policy issues, some Federal and some State, have created numerous unnecessary conflicts over the waters in the Klamath Basin. This bill is a step in the right direction to mitigate the problems created by ill-advised policy. HB 2765 returns a small amount of flexibility for water managers to restore water to areas of maximum beneficial use.

Without the approval of this bill, the citizens of Klamath County will have to pay \$20 million to achieve the same end, would eliminate the flexibility to deliver the treated water to the maximum beneficial use, and fails to promote water conservation efforts supported by the water users in the Klamath watershed.

This bill does not require additional Oregon taxpayer spending, does not require additional rule making or rule adjustments, nor does this bill conflict with the Klamath Adjudication. In fact, this bill appears to reduce conflict and create flexibility.

Therefore, Klamath Irrigation District encourages the promotion of H.B. 2765.

Gene Souza

Executive Director

Klamath Irrigation District