

Submitter: Jonathan Teichert

On Behalf Of: City of Klamath Falls

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2765

Honorable Committee Members,

The Klamath Basin has been experiencing a very severe, multi-year drought. It has had a very negative effect on the agricultural community and the wildlife that depend on it.

Meanwhile, approximately 1.5 million gallons of treated wastewater from the South Suburban Sanitary District is discharged daily into the Klamath River. The beneficial use of this treated wastewater goes unrealized in Oregon.

The proposal by the South Suburban Sanitary District, HB 2765, will allow their treated wastewater reuse for downstream irrigators and wildlife habitats by conveyance of the existing waterway. This will help create a reliable source of water for irrigators and wildlife refuges in a time of drought. A pipeline could accomplish the same, but at an estimated cost of approximately \$20M.

The proposed legislation is an innovative response to this unprecedented drought, whereby the South Suburban Sanitary District can maximize the reuse potential to restore and preserve wildlife habitats in the Klamath Basin. We encourage your support the passage of HB 2765.

Kindly,

Jonathan Teichert
Klamath Falls City Manager