

Submitter: Jeffery Perin

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2659

Regarding HB 2659, I believe it is time for Oregon and Deschutes County (and for that matter neighboring Crook County and Jefferson County) to start opposing developments that are taking more water from the resource that we have.

I am closely connected with water in my nearly 40 year career as a fly shop owner and fishing guide. I have lived in Oregon for 54 years (all my life) and I have never seen such a dire situation as what is unfolding in Central Oregon now.

We are simply overbuilt, and using too much water with concern for the future of our natural resources and the fish and wildlife that these water sustain, and the quality of life it brings to people like you and me, and those people who come here to visit.

Enough is enough. We have enough resorts and golf courses.

Wells are running dry all over my county. The headwater springs on the Metolius are flowing about a third of what they normally flow. Farmers are having to let fields go fallow. Fish and wildlife are suffering. Boat ramps are unusable in some areas because water has receded so far out from the normal ramps and docks they can no longer be accessed.

These are just things I am witnessing in my own community. Scientist and Biologists I am sure have even more dire stories.

It needs to be in the interest for our great state to slow down and even stop some of this development.

Please think of climate action and how that impacts us when you oppose HB2659. If you don't think it matters, come over and take a tour with me and I'll personally show you the struggles over consumption of water is doing to my life.