

Date: April 18, 2023  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: HB 3187-A  
Submitter: Mark A. Hawkins  
On Behalf Of: Mark A. Hawkins

Honorable Chair and Committee Members

As a practicing Professional Land Surveyor who is also a Certified Water Rights Examiner, I have concerns regarding this proposed bill.

This bill would allow Irrigation/Water District employees to qualify for a Water Rights Examiner Certification having only experience working for the District. Currently, licensing is required as a Land Surveyor, Engineer or Geologist in order to qualify to sit for the Water Rights Examiner's test. Each of these professions requires years of education and experience prior to obtaining their respective licenses. My main concerns are as follows:

1. What prompted this Bill? Is there a shortage of Water Rights Examiners?
2. This Bill would potentially take work away from registered professionals who worked for this privilege.
3. Licensed Professionals complete work under their seal (stamp & signature). Land Surveyors fix their stamp and signature to Legal Descriptions, Records of Surveys, Reports, etc. that they prepare. Who will stamp and sign reports coming from the District? Who ensures the quality of the work?
4. Surveying, mapping, computer, math and other skills are required of a Land Surveyor and Water Rights Examiner. What skills are required of the District employees?
5. I understand that Irrigation Districts can currently perform all the water rights examination functions of a Certified Water Rights Examiner within a district based upon their district authority under ORS 545. Again, what prompted this Bill? What is the reasoning behind it?

Please consider these concerns when discussing this bill.

Sincerely, Mark A. Hawkins, PLS CWRE