

Submitter: Heather Harter  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2765

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is Heather Harter and I'm the Executive Director of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce. Our Chamber has a membership just over 600 business and organizations. I offer this testimony in support of HB 2765 and the -2 amendment.

This bill would allow water to be conveyed within existing waterways which would save millions of dollars. The South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) must make significant, costly upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant to comply with the new DEQ requirements, which will create an enormous financial burden for the citizens within the District. This bill would allow them to use the waterway instead of spending \$20 million to lay pipeline. Laying that pipeline would also disturb 9 miles of the environment so this bill allows for a more environmentally friendly solution. In addition to the cost savings, HB 2765 is an innovative response to unprecedented drought, whereby South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) can maximize the reuse potential for the wastewater that SSSD is charged with managing and helps to create a reliable source of water for the wildlife refuge in a time of severe drought

HB 2765 is a critical step toward the effort to restore and preserve habitat that, prior to the recent drought, was normally rich and healthy and relied on by hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife.

I respectfully encourage you to vote YES on HB 2765 and the -2 amendment.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to offer my support for this very important legislation.

Respectfully,  
Heather Harter