

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 3806

Relating to water banks

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Owens

HB 3806 authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Commission to approve a Deschutes River water bank pilot program for surface water.

Water banking is a system to support the management of water resources through deposits and withdrawals, to enable the transfer of water between users, or maintain emergency water supplies during times of drought.

The measure specifies the Deschutes River Conservancy will manage the operations of the water bank, outlines eligible participants, the contents of a charter, and establishes specific operating requirements. The Water Resources Department will provide support for the program with a transfer anticipated from the Deschutes River Conservancy. The water bank pilot program sunsets on January 2, 2034.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 3806 be amended by the –A6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.