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TO: **Oregon Water Caucus** Co-Chairs, **Ken Helm** and **Mark Owens**

FROM: Carl Coffman, Declarant for Winchester Ridge HOA

DATE: 2-6-25

RE: HB 3121 Small-Community Water Systems

Gentlemen,

In 2007, I bought land for- and started a subdivision in Douglas County on property that is zoned 5R. (Residential 5 acre). Since the property is not in the City of Roseburg or within the UGB, there was no public water available so I decided to drill wells for this project.

As you may recall, things kind of fell apart for real estate in 2008 so this has been a long duration project for me. Our sales were extremely slow but that fit because our water issues restricted our ability to build anyway. After drilling 18 or so wells, many of which were either salt or such low volume as to be worthless, we finally got a single, very good well for the development. We now have 34 homes committed to use water from this source.

Once we had satisfactory water for the development , I naively felt like we could see the end of my involvement in this project. Unfortunately, I was not aware of the reporting requirements for communities who get their water from wells.

It is quite amazing to see the amount of bureaucracy that is involved in managing a water system in a neighborhood like the one mentioned and although necessarily so- it takes industry advocates to help train the operators to work through it, to provide good quality and tested water, and to report in order to stay out of trouble with regulators. I was contacted by one of those advocates who offered support through The Oregon Association of Water Utilities

Continued funding by the State would allow OAWU to maintain its on-site technical assistance and training for water associations like the one we have in Roseburg. I certainly believe it to be a benefit to any small water district or service area in the state. Without these programs, small communities would lose a valuable resource, which assists them in maintaining safe drinking water and protecting the environment.

I hope you will favor the good folks at OAWU by voting to continue funding for their work and the benefits they provide for the residents of the great State of Oregon.

Thank you for your service to the People.