



House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2169

Co- Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger-McDonald and members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the time and consideration of my testimony on HB 2169. My name is Jake Madison. I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer based near Hermiston, Oregon. In addition, I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of my family to beneficiary land apply reuse water on our farm. As I was born and raised on a reuse application farm I have been able to develop a unique perspective on the environmental benefits, regulatory challenges, and major misconceptions associated with the beneficial land application of reuse water.

HB 2169 is an incredibly important piece of legislation as the reuse of water in Oregon helps the state achieve some major sustainability goals. In the face of declining aquifers and climate change, water reuse offers some incredible benefits. There has been a massive amount of misinformation put out over the last few years with regards to the beneficial land application of reuse water. This has created a rather tenuous relationship between producers of reuse water, users of reuse water, regulators of reuse water, and the public. My hope is that HB 2169 will help to create a better understanding of just how safe and sustainable the reuse of water is, both in the regulatory community as well as the public.

However, in reviewing HB 2169, I was shocked that the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State University were not included in section 2 of this bill. I strongly believe that both the ODA and OSU need to have a place at this table. ODA will be able to share its unique perspective on how many of the state's sustainability goals can be reached with the land application of reuse water while simultaneously providing subject matter expertise on the management of reuse water applied to ag lands. I also believe that OSU is the appropriate entity

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to help quantify the massive carbon offset that reuse water is producing annually in Oregon. It is a material number that I believe should be factored into this discussion. OSU would also be capable of providing a verification step for ag-related practices, providing the agencies with needed support for any necessary regulatory changes as technology advances in the field.

Another major potential outcome of this bill should be a more clearly defined set of agency responsibilities. The ODA should have a pivotal role in helping to manage reuse water permits that are applied to ag lands - managing an agricultural system is much different than managing a brick-and-mortar water treatment facility. Oregon has several very capable agencies that are responsible for managing its natural resources and environmental risks and policies. HB 2169 should define each agency's role in managing the beneficial reuse of water and hopefully create greater regulatory alignment with the end use of the water.

As Oregon continuously drives to be a leader in sustainability, carbon sequestration, and climate change resilience, I encourage the committee to continue exploring all the potential benefits and regulatory hurdles surrounding the reuse of water in the state of Oregon. I hope there is an opportunity soon to work with the committee on some of the proposed recommendations I've outlined today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jake Madison

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