



HB 2988
Testimony in Support
Before the
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
February 12, 2025

Co-Chairs Helm, Owens, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2988.

The mission of the Oregon Ground Water Association is to promote sustainable groundwater development and management for maximum beneficial use without waste or contamination. Organized in 1949, the Association has sought to encourage responsible stewardship of the groundwater resource with its leadership in industry education and legislation.

The Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA) is a nonprofit membership organization composed of water well constructors, well pump and water treatment contractors, hydrogeologists and engineers, manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, and other various trades engaged with the groundwater resource. From these various disciplines, we have the benefit of receiving many perspectives on proposed legislation.

The OGWA fully supports efforts to reduce barriers to, and support of, beneficial aquifer recharge (AR) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects. In order for the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to identify and fully understand those barriers, and to develop the strategies necessary to reduce the barriers and support those projects, the OWRD must include among the "interested parties" consultants and other experts outside of the public agencies who have experience and expertise with AR and ASR projects in Oregon.

It is our understanding that the OWRD intends to form a work group of stakeholders and interested parties which should include those with appropriate technical backgrounds to assist in this undertaking. We encourage the Department to follow through with that effort and stand ready to assist.

The OGWA encourages the Committee to support HB 2988 and we thank you in advance for your careful consideration.