VIKKI BREESE IVERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 59

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COMMITTEES: HOUSING, VICE-CHAIR

JOINT WAYS AND MEANS **NATURAL RESOURCES SUB**

February 19, 2025

Co-Chair Owens, Co-Chair Helm, members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Vikki Breese Iverson, I live in wonderful Prineville, Oregon and I am the State Representative honored to represent House District 59.

In much of central and eastern Oregon we have seen a rapid increase in Juniper weeds. This tree is considered invasive. Studies have shown large Juniper weeds can consume somewhere between 25 and 40 gallons per day.

In 2023, we passed HB 2010 with the help of this committee, thank you, and one of the things we secured in that bill is a pilot program providing grants to a small number of soil and water districts for Juniper removal.

You will hear more of our progress on the pilot program here in a minute. However, I am pleased to report all the soil and water districts involved are well on their way in this pilot program and some have already completed their work.

House Bill 3135 is designed to continue the program we started. The language is drafted after HB 2010. We understand there may need to be some technical fixes to have this bill match the pilot program we have in place.

I am proud of the incredible work we have done on Juniper removal. If we want to get real about water conservation, we need to get rid of Juniper. Programs like this pilot will not only conserve water, but really create new water.

I appreciate everyone who has participated in this pilot program, and all the hard work they are doing to fight the Juniper invasion. I also appreciate the newly formed Central Oregon Caucus who supports HB 3135. I look forward to you joining all of us to support this pilot program into it's next phase by passing HB3135 out of this committee.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson

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