



To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
From: Rachel O'Connor, Environmental Defense Fund
Re: Environmental Defense Fund's support for HB 3419

February 19, 2025

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) supports HB 3419 including the -3 amendment, which enhances water measurement and reporting across Oregon. As our state faces increasing water availability challenges from climate change and competing demands for this essential resource, accurate and transparent water data is fundamental to responsible management and long-term sustainability. By strengthening the authority of the Water Resources Department to collect water use data, HB 3419 supports the Department in data-driven decision making. EDF believes the bill could be strengthened by clarifying the specific water use parameters the Department is authorized to require.

Additionally, the establishment of Water Data Priority Areas and a cost-share program for measurement infrastructure are critical steps toward addressing gaps in our understanding of water availability, particularly in regions experiencing groundwater decline and frequent shortages. Providing financial support to install and maintain measurement systems will help water users comply with reporting requirements while advancing the state's ability to manage water equitably and effectively.

I urge you to support HB 3419 to enable data-driven management and ensure the resilience of our water resources for future generations. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel O'Connor
Senior Manager, Climate Resilient Water Systems
Environmental Defense Fund
roconnor@edf.org