

February 19, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Central Oregon LandWatch Testimony on HB 3364 – Oppose Unless Amended

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3364. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, public interest organization of about 950 members. Its offices are located in Bend, Oregon. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for the preservation of natural resources in Central Oregon for over 30 years.

LandWatch is concerned by the proposed changes outlined in HB 3364, especially under Section 8 (amending ORS 541.666), Section 9 (amending ORS 541.669) and Section 10 (amending ORS 541.673).

LandWatch is concerned that the proposed changes will dilute or remove important sideboards that help ensure state funding is allocated to projects that truly provide the greatest public benefit. Specifically, we are concerned about the proposed removal and/or changes to important application and evaluation sideboards, including:

- removal of application requirements to ensure sufficient information is included for the proper evaluation of a project’s public benefit scoring and ranking
- changes to the scoring and ranking system
- the inclusion of new, unspecified factors for evaluating projects applying under ORS 541.669
- changes to currently required sideboards for evaluating the economic benefits of a project

These proposed changes, and others, create substantial uncertainty as to how project evaluation and funding decisions will be made. With limited funding available, it is imperative that the state allocate public dollars to the projects that will provide the greatest public benefit.





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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Austin".

Jeremy Austin
Wild Lands & Water Program Director
Central Oregon LandWatch
2843 NW Lolo Dr St. 200
Bend, OR 97703



We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future