

Submitter: Mitch Ripke
On Behalf Of: Community
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3573

I firmly oppose HB3573, which aims to allocate taxpayer money for the collection and monitoring of water resources data. This legislation undermines the rights of hardworking citizens who have invested thousands of their own dollars into the infrastructure and maintenance of their well water systems. It represents significant government overreach, leading to increased utility costs at a time when Oregon struggles to keep utilities affordable for its residents.

Furthermore, it is inappropriate for the state to use taxpayer funds to collect data on privately-owned wells, reflecting a troubling misuse of public resources. This bill sets a troubling precedent that could pave the way for the further taxation or diversion of water from rural homeowners, small farms, and private well owners, all to benefit state interests tied to “special political projects”—including data centers and high-tech expansions—often in pursuit of federal funding or political aspirations.

I urge you to vote “NO” on HB3573, as I strongly oppose this legislation, which many view as an infringement on citizens' financial contributions and their right to privacy.