

Submitter: Mary Powell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB427

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Deschutes County supports Oregon state policies and statutes that promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and management of ground and surface water and the improvement of water quality.

In the Upper Deschutes Watershed the surface water and groundwater are intimately connected and exchange over both short and long distances and times. Both surface and groundwater flow are impacted by permeable and impermeable volcanic vents, fractures and faults, and place and amount of withdrawals and application. The effects of local changes in point of diversion and application to land will effect the River and tributaries in the Upper Deschutes.

We support SB 427 and the amendments to protect stream flows both in the Upper and Lower Deschutes.

The exchange of surface water rights for groundwater pumping through mitigation needs much more attention and we hope the committee will consider protection of groundwater in future. Groundwater recharge to the streams and rivers of the Deschutes basin has been the source of cold clean water in summer and essential to the health of aquatic species.

Sincerely,
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