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February 27, 2025

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

**Subject: Support for [HB 3106](#) - Water Data Portal**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. For the record, my name is Rose Poton and I am the Water Justice Coordinator at Verde. Verde is a community-based organization whose mission is to build environmental wealth through organizing, advocacy, and social enterprise.

HB3106 is a crucial step towards building a comprehensive and accessible water data portal in Oregon. This portal is essential for understanding and managing our state's water resources, a task becoming increasingly complex in the face of a changing climate and growing demands. While acknowledging the challenges associated with establishing the portal's governance structure, we urge the legislature to keep this initiative alive and moving forward.

We understand the importance of a collaborative approach involving stakeholders across various sectors, including state agencies, community groups, and advocacy organizations. It's vital that the portal fosters trust and collaboration among these stakeholders, recognizing that some agencies may require more trust-building than others. Communities have expressed distrust toward agencies and concerns about transparency in data and decision-making processes. The HB 3106 Water Data Portal offers a valuable opportunity for agencies to enhance transparency, rebuild trust, and foster stronger relationships with communities.

We support establishing clear criteria to guide the selection of an appropriate entity to host and manage the water data portal and recommend the following criteria:

- **Technical Expertise:** The entity should have a proven track record in managing large, complex data sets and platforms.
- **Outreach and Partnership:** Strong capacity for building relationships and engaging with diverse stakeholder groups, including communities and individuals.
- **Project Management:** Experience and capability to manage large-scale projects effectively.
- **Capacity:** The entity should possess the resources and personnel to handle the project's scope and ongoing maintenance.



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- **Supportive Leadership:** Commitment from leadership within the entity to champion the project and provide necessary resources.
- **Data Integration:** Capability to connect with and integrate data from various sources within and outside the state enterprise.

By passing HB3106, the legislature can signal a commitment to investing in a secure and stable water data portal that will benefit all Oregonians. This portal has the potential to become a powerful tool for addressing water challenges, fostering informed decision-making, and ensuring a healthy and sustainable water future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheyenne Holliday, Advocacy Manager  
Verde

Rose Poton, Water Justice Coordinator  
Verde