

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 12th, 2025

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

My name is Emerson Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 53, representing Bend, Redmond, Sisters and Tumalo. I am writing today to express support for HB 3806, which would develop a water bank pilot program in Deschutes River.

The Deschutes River is the heart of Central Oregon and provides an essential water source for a variety of uses, including fishing, farming, and recreation. We are seeing an increase in the severity of droughts, heat waves, and wildfires, posing dangers to our precious water supply. As the population in the region grows, so does the need for a structured, comprehensive plan to effectively manage and protect our water without burdening communities with increased fees or damaging our natural ecosystems.

A water bank would create a charter that monitors river water usage and outlines clear regulations for all participants. This would ease the process of transferring water between various users, as well as making it affordable and reliable to access and store water.

Water banking boosts the local economy by offering financial incentives for irrigators to voluntarily deposit their excess water in the bank to meet the demands of urban regions and instream conditions. Most importantly, a water bank is vital in maintaining emergency water supplies during droughts, ensuring our vulnerable communities are being taken care of and strengthening Central Oregon's resiliency.

I urge the committee to support HB 3806 and join me in protecting the Deschutes River and the communities it serves. Thank you.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, House District 53