

Submitter: Sarah Fowler

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3114

As a former biological field technician working on habitat surveys in the Great Basin and as a citizen of Oregon and of the planet who relies on functioning ecosystems, I strongly support this bill. Saline lakes are depended upon by migratory birds traveling between South America and Canada and Alaska and are disappearing at alarming rates. After flying over vast expanses of no water bodies, migratory birds land, feed, and rest in the few remaining lakes. Lake Abert is one of the few remaining Saline Lakes in the Great Basin and in the last 30 years it has often gone dry, unnecessarily. If less water were diverted upstream, the dormant desiccated shrimp under the lakebed would come to life and become food for the birds, as has happened for thousands of years. Lake Abert is a critical stopover area for migrating birds. We must do everything in our power to protect it.