

Submitter: star wood

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3800

On behalf of Oregon's agriculture community I would like to express my concern and opposition to HB3800. While details are minimal, the name change and fact that it establishes certain authorities and duties of the Water Resources Department related to the Harney Basin Groundwater Management Area is of considerable concern.

First, these kinds of "duties and responsibilities" are rarely developed to benefit the citizens whose livelihood depends on the resource. (Representative Mike Owens is hardly the poster child for Eastern Oregon Ranching so his input has little credibility. )

Second, water rights have repeatedly been allocated and permits issued for additional irrigation wells with little thought about growth in industry, population or agriculture. I have to question why, given the information available, additional irrigation wells were permitted over the past two decades. It would appear these wells were permitted in error which begs for better department oversight and accountability with actual transparency to develop the solution - NOT another list of rules created in a closed room with little or no accountability by people with no "feet on the ground" knowledge. The current situation is as much a result of mis-management as it is misuse. And now we're going to rename the area and assign management to another government regulatory agency? Seriously?