

Submitter: Sheena Franklin

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3800

I am a very concerned resident of Harney County who witnessed many of the RAC512 meetings. Long story short, I saw the state attempting to gain control over a vital resource in this county based on supposed reports and data that were never released to the public. I do not trust the state water department (which is not elected) to accurately distribute and/or have control over how agriculture, stock or domestic wells are monitored and/or used in this state. Make these supposed water studies transparent (raw data available, not endless powerpoints of perceived data) as well as obtain private studies which perhaps gather data over a larger span (not conveniently during severe drought) and these proposed control measures in water bills could be taken more seriously. Until then, this looks as though the state is grossly overreaching on water rights in an obvious grab at control rather than genuine concern over water resources. The detrimental economical impact this bill will have in Harney County as well as the state, will far surpass any benefits this bill would provide. The state has failed at so many resource management aspects (horses, wolves, etc). Please stop calling for more control from over the mountain and expecting that to bring successful results. More overreach based on biased, non-transparent studies is not what our community or state needs. We do not need someone who lives in Salem, telling us to shut our livelihoods down. I call for multiple, independent and transparent studies on water before throwing in the towel on any livelihoods! As a Harney County resident who's livelihood depends on irrigation, I am very disappointed that I voted for Mark Owens if he is supporting this type of bill. This is a shameful time in Oregon politics.