



Statement of the Oregon Land and Water Alliance against HB 3544-2

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, Oregon. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use, as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to HB 3544-2 on behalf of OLAWA and its Board of Directors.

We join Trout Unlimited and the Wild Salmon Center in opposing HB 3544-2. Passage of this bill would add significant new burdens to discourage public interest groups and individuals from attempting to ensure the sustained and integrated management of Oregon's publicly owned water resources. The legal and appropriate use of Oregon's water resources is an important governmental concern since those resources are owned by the Oregon public, and those resources must be managed by our government in trust for all Oregonians.

We recognize that there is an existing backlog of contested water rights cases, but this bill does not adequately address that concern. Instead, this bill would inappropriately restrict the public's due process rights to address the ongoing concerns of all Oregonians regarding the use and misuse of our public waters.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns about the appropriate uses of Oregon's waters.

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