



## **WaterWatch of Oregon**

### **Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers**

#### **HB 2808**

#### **Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon**

by Kimberley Priestley

**House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Land Use and Water**  
**March 31, 2025**

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and \_Oregon's rivers and aquifers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

#### **WaterWatch supports HB 2808**

HB 2808 proposes a modified fee schedule for start cards and landowner permit fees to maintain current staffing levels in the Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) well construction program.

The OWRD's well construction program protects public health and safety by ensuring that wells are properly constructed. Without the proposed fee increase, OWRD will lose critical positions which will put the public at risk.

We urge the Committee to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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