

Submitter: Jeffrey Eastman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3343

The bill allows the Department to condition water right changes or transfers on the installation of measurement devices, representing a significant policy shift. While not a direct mandate, this kind of linkage could functionally become one—particularly for those needing administrative changes to their water rights. The ability to maintain a clear line between voluntary participation and regulatory requirement is important. And we need to avoid setting a precedent where access to routine water right services becomes contingent upon costly infrastructure upgrades and tied to reporting requirements.

Additionally, the expansion of civil penalty authority in Section 8 should be accompanied by strong due process protections. Enforcement mechanisms must be balanced with fairness and transparency to ensure producers are not penalized for honest mistakes or faced with disproportionate consequences for noncompliance.