

Submitter: Roxanne Formby

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3343

Testimony Opposing HB 3343 and Its Amendments

Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3343 and its proposed amendments, which would force water measurement requirements, increase government overreach on private property, and impose unfair financial burdens on water rights holders. This bill is an unacceptable infringement on property rights and an excessive expansion of state control over water resources.

1. Forced Water Meters are an Invasion of Property Rights

HB 3343 allows the state to require private landowners to install water meters as a condition of using their legally owned water rights. This is a direct attack on property rights and creates a dangerous precedent that could lead to further government control over private water access. Water rights belong to the people who have lawfully acquired them—not to the state.

2. Unnecessary and Burdensome Financial Costs

The bill claims to offer grants covering up to 75% of installation costs, but that still leaves landowners responsible for the remaining costs.

Who will pay for the ongoing maintenance, replacements, and reporting costs? These meters will need service, calibration, and eventual replacement—adding financial stress to rural families, farmers, and property owners.

The burden of compliance is placed on those who already legally own their water rights, forcing them to spend money just to continue using what they already have.

3. Government Overreach and Excessive Fines

The bill grants the Water Resources Department unchecked authority to enforce water measurement and reporting, with fines of up to \$2,000 per violation—potentially for each day of non-compliance.

This is an unfair and punitive approach that criminalizes property owners who simply wish to continue using their water as they always have.

There is no justification for granting the government this level of control over private water use.

4. No Clear Limits on Data Collection and Usage

HB 3343 lacks transparency about how water usage data will be collected, stored, and used.

There are no safeguards to prevent this data from being misused for future

restrictions, increased regulation, or even taxation.

This is a clear case of government surveillance over private citizens' water use.

5. Setting a Dangerous Precedent for Future Water Rights Restrictions

Water meters today—what comes next? Will the state restrict how much water a property owner can use?

This bill is not about conservation—it is about control.

Once the government has access to this data, they can impose additional regulations, fees, or even revoke water rights based on arbitrary thresholds.

Conclusion: Stop HB 3343 and Defend Oregonians' Rights

HB 3343 is a serious overreach that threatens private property rights, burdens landowners with unnecessary costs, and grants the state unchecked power to penalize water rights holders. No landowner should be forced to install a meter, report private water usage, or face fines for using the water that is rightfully theirs.

I urge you to vote NO on this bill and stand with the people of Oregon to protect our rights, our property, and our access to water.

Sincerely,
Roxanne Formby