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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3343

The -4 amendment allows the Department to condition water right changes or transfers on the installation of measurement devices. This represents 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. 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.

From a higher perspective, the solution to failures of current water regulation is not more regulation. It's time for the Oregon government to rethink water use in Oregon instead of going further down the same rabbit hole. Look at the water cycle restoration advocacy at <https://www.plugoregon.org/> website and talk to their people if you're short on ideas. We all want better water use and better water distribution, and more benefits to come from the water. I would love to apply some water cycle restoration techniques on my property. It has advantages far beyond abundant water.