



Subject: Testimony in Support of HB2170A

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee,

Ochoco Irrigation District is situated in the Heart of Oregon in Crook County. OID provides water to over 20,000 irrigated acres and nearly 900 patrons. The District owns Ochoco Reservoir and Dam and operates Prineville Reservoir and Bowman Dam under contract with US Bureau of Reclamation. These facilities rely almost exclusively on annual snowmelt runoff to store water to meet the needs of irrigators, fish and wildlife, recreation, City of Prineville, and others. These reservoirs also serve a vital role in providing flood control to our basin. We are currently blessed to have a great snowpack and will have two full reservoirs again this Spring. These full reservoirs will welcome thousands of visitors throughout the year. A 2019 economic report estimated that visitors and local recreationists spent \$86 million on outdoor recreation in Crook County. Boating, fishing and camping on these waterways are primary drivers for this economic impact.

I'd like to reiterate the significant impacts associated with these invasive species on reservoir outlet works, canal structures, pipelines, and hydro facilities. Additionally, any structures that remain in the water for prolonged periods of time are at risk. In 2019, I was able to visit the US BOR Technical Service Center in Colorado. On display in their facility was the lower unit and prop from a boat that was in Lake Mead Nevada for 18 months. Every square inch was covered by quagga mussels. Mr DeHart, and ODFW, will certainly be describing impacts of these species but it is difficult to fathom the speed and magnitude of the destruction caused by these invasive mussels.

HB2170A would provide for irrigation districts and it's partners to staff and operate watercraft inspection stations near facilities like ours that are at risk for infestation. This is one of the best ways we have right now to prevent the spread of these and other aquatic invasive species.

Again, I thank you for your time and I urge this committee to pass HB2170A to help prevent the spread of these aquatic invasive species in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Bruce Scanlon
Manager, Ochoco Irrigation District