

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3342
Chair & Committee Members,

I oppose HB 3342.

While I think HB 3342-1 takes steps to improve administrative processes, I have concerns about the creation of new regulatory challenges that could negatively impact agricultural water users. The potential for expanded public protest opportunities and discretionary transfer denials introduces uncertainty in an area where predictability is essential. Farmers and ranchers depend on timely access to water, and any new requirements that delay or obstruct valid water transactions should be carefully evaluated to ensure they do not create unnecessary barriers to agricultural viability.

Proposed restrictions in designated critical groundwater areas raise concerns about fairness and scientific justification. Policies must be based on sound science and clear, measurable criteria. It is essential that regulatory changes recognize the existing investments farmers have made in water efficiency and conservation and ensure that water remains available for agricultural production. The state must be mindful of the consequences of restricting access to water, as it directly affects food production, rural economies, and the long-term sustainability of working lands.

I strongly support policies that protect agricultural water use, support private property rights and ensure responsible stewardship of our shared natural resources. Water is one of Oregon's most valuable assets and I recognize the importance of a secure and sustainable water future for all Oregonians.

HB 3342 does not reflect these beliefs and should NOT be passed.