

May 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Central Oregon LandWatch Testimony on HB 3569 - Oppose

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3569. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, conservation organization of over 900 members. Its offices are located in Bend, Oregon. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for the preservation of natural resources in Central Oregon for over 30 years.

LandWatch opposes HB 3569 and the concept of requiring agencies to invite the chief sponsor of a bill to serve on a rules advisory committee (RAC).

Our concerns include:

1. A Bill Reflects the Work of the Entire Legislature

A bill reflects the collective decisions of all 90 members of the Oregon Legislature, not just its chief sponsor. RACs are charged with advising agencies on implementing the law as passed, not interpreting the intent of one legislator. Elevating a single legislator’s voice in the rulemaking process distorts the collaborative nature of legislative action.

2. Power Imbalance

Legislators control agency budgets and can influence their operations in significant ways. Having a legislator on a RAC may unintentionally pressure or influence agency staff or stakeholders, disrupting the collaborative and balanced environment RACs are designed to foster.

3. Separation of Powers, Article III

Requiring agencies to invite legislators to serve on RACs raises questions related to Oregon Constitution’s Separation of Power, Article III.



#### 4. Unnecessary to Inform Legislators

RAC meetings are open to the public. Legislators and their staff already have full access to observe and participate in these discussions as members of the public. Additional formal involvement is unnecessary and inappropriate.

#### 5. Non-voting Role Does Not Address Problems

Most RACs do not vote. For RACs that do vote, requiring agencies to invite the chief sponsor of the bill—even as a non-voting member—still creates an imbalance of power and risks chilling open and honest dialogue.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge this committee to not pass HB 3569. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Austin  
Wild Lands & Water Program Director  
Central Oregon LandWatch  
2843 NW Lolo Dr St. 200  
Bend, OR 97703

