

Submitter: Lois Hawk

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4006

I oppose changes to, (basically exemptions) of the state-wide water rights. in this stretch of the Columbia River. With our state's snow-pack at 12% on Feb. 6th, the availability of water now and in the future is of grave concern to farmers, landowners, and citizens of towns and cities across the state. The conservation and preservation of Oregon's hydrologic cycle should be a state-wide examination of our state's water budget and scientific analysis of how to maintain clean water accessibility for ALL people of this beautiful state. That goal cannot be met by piecemeal legislation that benefits one area, but poses serious repercussions for others. In addition, the recent developments in solar installations and the often co-located data centers adds incredible pressure on our waters as can be seen at the Dells. That situation alone, should justify a moratorium on "New water rights" until each area of Oregon has an updated water budget. Use science, not politics to manage this precious and irreplaceable natural resource.