

Submitter: Mark Henjum

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4006

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, members of the Committee,

Please oppose HB 4006. In my view, it is unfair to exempt irrigators in one part of the state from water laws that other irrigators in Oregon must abide by. Allowing increased irrigated agriculture in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area risks increased nitrate inputs into ground water. Nitrate concerns in this area are well documented and have received extensive coverage in the media. Don't make the Water Resources Department's job even more difficult by setting such a precedent. It's important to remember Oregon's water belongs to the people of Oregon and this bill represents a poor outcome for the Columbia River, the Umatilla Basin, and Oregonians. Please oppose this bill. Thanks for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Mark Henjum