

Dear Committee:

This letter is sent to urge you to **OPPOSE the passage of HB 4006**.

HB 4006, is a poorly conceived bill that would critically change the water right management of Columbia River surface rights for a 51-mile section of the river, and, even more dangerous, set a perilous precedent for the rest of Oregon.

Critical to comprehend, this bill would, by *exempting* Umatilla Basin irrigators that divert water from the Columbia River from key water laws that every other farmer in the Oregon must comply with, would set into motion a downward spiral impossible to correct. It would undermine efforts to decrease nitrate inputs into groundwater – which would be greatly detrimental to human health. It would negatively impact imperiled Columbia River salmon and steelhead.

In essence, this bill would undermine the Oregon Water Resources Department's ability to manage over 700,000 acres of irrigated agriculture. This precedent could have disastrous consequences.

As a fifth generation Oregonian who cherishes this state and its natural resources, I adjure you, please **oppose this bill**.

Sincerely,

Marcy Cottrell Houle

16600 NW Gillihan Road

Sauvie Island, OR. 97231