

Submitter: Steven Hackett

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:

I urge you to oppose HB 4006. Oregon's water belongs to the public. Exempting irrigators in one area of the state from important water laws that every other farmer in Oregon must adhere to is not good for the Columbia River, the Umatilla Basin, or our state.

This bill undermines the Oregon Water Resources Department's ability to manage over 700,000 acres of irrigated agriculture, and sets a dangerous precedent. The long history of abusive irrigation water use is prevalent throughout Oregon and the entire United States region west of the continental divide. Rivers are silting up behind dams and drying up because of over usage. Ground water aquifer levels are dropping too from the same over allocations.

I am also concerned about the effect of increased agriculture on the groundwater quality of the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area. It is proven that increased irrigation risks harming the natural chemical balance of our groundwater resources. Water used for personal consumption that the state is responsible for.

Please oppose this bill. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Steven K. Hackett
Springfield, OR