

Submitter: Gibb Evans

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4006

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair

Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair

Representative Sarah Finger-McDonald, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4006

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair Finger-McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4006, a thoughtful and regionally focused approach to improving water management, enhancing efficiency, and supporting long-term sustainability within a 51-mile stretch of the Columbia River corridor.

HB 4006 accomplishes three key objectives within this limited geographic area:

- It enables an intergovernmental entity formed under ORS Chapter 190 to receive specific authorities similar to irrigation districts for managing and optimizing Columbia River water after it has been diverted from the river.
- It allows that intergovernmental entity to move the same previously authorized diversion rate between points of diversion within its boundaries—provided the season of use remains unchanged and the maximum daily pumping rate is maintained.
- It updates the place-of-use framework by allowing the entity to participate in the district mapping process so that outdated boundaries can be aligned with modern, realistic management needs.

I support HB 4006 for several important reasons:

1. HB 4006 focuses state oversight on the most critical elements of water law. This bill modernizes the system by allowing local entities to manage day-to-day operations while the state concentrates on core regulatory priorities, improving reporting accuracy and freeing OWRD resources.
2. It provides a targeted, region-specific solution with minimal risk of unintended consequences. Its limited geographic scope ensures that modernization can be

implemented, tested, and evaluated without statewide disruption.

3. It creates a path for collaborative, inclusive water sustainability. HB 4006 empowers senior water right holders to voluntarily participate in a collective entity for the benefit of the broader district.

4. It includes essential reporting requirements that can guide other regions. Annual reporting ensures transparent, consistent information sharing that supports future sustainability strategies.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your full support and passage of HB 4006. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Gibb Evans