



## We Urge Your Support of HOUSE BILL 2259C

We are writing to voice our support for HB 2259C. We are a diverse group of water users, conservation groups, municipalities and water stakeholders with a common goal: to advocate for **common sense water policies that move Oregon's economy, communities and environment toward a secure future.**

We support HB 2259C because it provides adequate funding for the Oregon Water Resources Department and maintains the service that we rely on for processing transaction requests.

HB 2259C increases existing transaction fees for the Department. These fees have not been increased since 2009 and reverted back to 2003 levels on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. **If the 2259C does not pass it will result in extensive cuts to the Department and slowed, backlogged service.**

HB 2259C restores a **50%/50% balance** in funding of the transactions program between income from **fees paid by those who directly benefit**, on the one hand, and **general funds provided by Oregon taxpayers**, on the other.

HB 2259C also sunsets these increased fees to the levels prior to this bill on July 1, 2017.

### *Who pays these fees?*

**Waters users who submit an application with the Department for a permit, right, or other direct benefit will pay these transaction fees.** These transaction requests include, for example, permit requests to appropriate stored water; requests to file and record assignment or partial assignment of a water right application, permit or license; and requests for an examination of an application to change an existing right or permit.

### *Why this funding is critical to water users:*

A rollback to 2003 fee levels would decrease Department staff by 8 positions, significantly slowing service and increasing processing time. **A rollback of fees will also increase the burden on Oregon taxpayers to fund an even greater share of the cost of processing transactions that benefit the individual applicants.**

***HB 2259C is necessary to maintain the critical transactions service of the Oregon Water Resources Department. And it is fair to both the individual applicant and Oregon taxpayers, who help pay the cost of processing for the applicant.***