



April 6, 2015

To: Chair Edwards & Members of the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES

RE: Support for SB 266 – Community Water Planning

Chair Edwards and members of the Committee:

We are writing to voice our strong support for passage of SB 266. We are a diverse group of water stakeholders with a common goal: to advocate for common sense water policies that move Oregon's economy, communities, and environment toward a secure water future.

SB 266 represents a small, yet important, step toward better planning for water resource strategies at the local level. This bill will implement a voluntary program for the purpose of facilitating critical conversations among local stakeholders in order to identify water resource challenges and opportunities. The identification of needs at the local level and among diverse stakeholder interests can result in the development of innovative partnerships and sound solutions in order to tackle some of the more vexing water-related challenges across our state.

The Oregon Legislature has already taken other important steps in the right direction with the passage of both SB 1069 (2008) and SB 839 (2013); which fund water project feasibility studies and water supply development respectively. However, the costs associated with meeting our water needs greatly exceed available resources. The next step is to support and fund voluntary, locally-driven planning processes that will enable communities across the state to address water-related challenges and opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Oregon Water Resources Congress
Oregon Association of Nurseries
The Freshwater Trust
League of Oregon Cities
Association of Oregon Counties
Special Districts Association of Oregon
Northeast Oregon Water Association*

