

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: David Felley <dfelley@eoni.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 7:29 AM
To: HARTT Laura A * WRD
Subject: Groundwater rules

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Dear Ms. Hartt,

I am writing after notification from the Nature Conservancy regarding comments on new groundwater rules being developed by your agency.

I am very concerned about effects of groundwater pumping on fish and wildlife resources in our state. Given the often obscure but clear connections between groundwater and surface water I believe it is critical that there be strong regulations on the use of groundwater resources. Impacts to Great Basin lakes from excessive groundwater development is affecting critical wildlife resources.

Protection of the groundwater resources will also be critical in the future for human use as our state faces longer and more frequent droughts. Research I recently saw presented on the Umatilla basin provides an example of the very slow rate of recharge in the face of high rates of pumping.

I support strong protections of groundwater resources to avoid over-exploitation by big moneyed interests of this barely renewable resource in our state. Thanks for your efforts to this end.

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