

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: marilyn koenitzer <mltknows@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 3:20 PM
To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: June 14 Hearing Comments

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OWRD Commissioners:

This morning, June 14, 2024, I made comments on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR). I should have made those comments representing myself, not LWVOR. Those comments were that the Oregon Land Use Goals and Policies do not link land use development to water availability. Redmond, Oregon applied for a new water permit and was denied. Bend will need to apply for a new permit as well and needs that water to supply its growth.

My new comments:

Few have spoken about the “missing link” in our state land use goals between development and availability of water for it. You are not responsible for creating that link, but you inadvertently are becoming part of it with your rule making. I hope my testimony raises awareness of the lack of connection.

I agree with the testimony of Mayor Melanie Kebler of Bend who is concerned that Bend will have trouble meeting state mandates for housing with future water constraints. Both Mayor Kepler and Annette Liebe mentioned the unique characteristics of the Deschutes Basin. Ground water comes from many sources, but is uneven. Ms. Liebe said ground water has been declining two feet per year in parts of the Basin and 50 feet (over a relatively short period of time). That is alarming to many of us.

More can be done with conservation by almost all water users, but conservation can only go so far. The state is actually regulating water somewhat, mainly through your rule making. It is past time for the state to acknowledge the part it plays in putting pressure on our water resources by mandating growth with its population projections, urban growth boundary regulations, density requirements and housing mandates.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development can link land use to water availability. It can create policies for use by cities and counties to ensure sustainable water supplies for development. It could also promulgate rules for conservation, if necessary. Having policy coming from the land use perspective could also alleviate pressure on your rule making.

I agree with your current rule making as I said in a previous letter, and I hope you can find a way to tackle exempt wells which are going dry at an accelerated rate. It is shocking that they can extract 12,000 gallons per day without being metered. I also hope we can define beneficial use with a conservation slant.

At your hearings it has been heartening to hear so many people on the same page on water issues.

I appreciate the listening and caring you exhibited during the two day meeting in Bend.

Thank you for all you are doing to try and save water for Oregon,

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