

The department has failed to adequately acknowledge the impacts these rules will have on agriculture, rural communities and small business owners. It is my belief that they are missing an opportunity to collaborate and work with everyday Oregonians. The truth is it is the state of Oregon and OWRD overallocation and 50 years of lacking data collection that has created this issue. Not just everyday Oregonians that use and need water like the department implies. And while these new rules will have a rubber stamp effect on new ground water rights, they will have effect on current domestic well users nor update the departments lacking in information collection. The department has not come up with a plan to engage current well users, water right holders nor any wish to impart more knowledge upon this population.

I have given testimony and listened to testimony these past few sessions. Almost every Oregonian other than nonprofits want and are pleading with the state for a basin-by-basin approach. Why this department isn't listening and working more to get these rules right is beyond me.

I could go on and on for hours on this subject, but I believe at this point that OWRD doesn't want to work with Oregonians. One only has to look at the insulting "greater Idaho" movement to see that Oregon communities are feeling like they are a marginalized voice. OWRD wants to shove these new rules down Oregonians throats and then expects these same communities who were asking for a clearer path to a basin approach to then just adhere and work seamlessly with the department? What a silly notion. Meanwhile domestic wells will continue to be over pumped and city lawns watered in the summer. These rules will hurt farmland feeling the effect of climate change and stifle affordable housing. I wish the department would take a deep breath and just dive deeper into these rules to collaborate and work with the people.

Thank you,

Molly Collins