

## HARTT Laura A \* WRD

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**From:** Zoe Fenton <zlfenton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2024 10:08 PM  
**To:** WRD\_DL\_rule-coordinator  
**Subject:** Opposed

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I am writing as a lifelong Oregon resident, in strong opposition to this idea. It's already far too hard to receive water rights in this state, and making that even harder is the opposite of what we should be doing as a general rule. If there are specific regions facing challenges, then let that be handled as it should be, on a local level, rather than creating excess bureaucracy for everyone else.

Water rights petitions can already take years, which is plain unacceptable as it is; and to add to this process is downright illogical.

If we as a state suffer from not enough groundwater, then rather than spend money paying people to review and likely deny excessive licensure, spend that money on enriching the state's water resources instead!

I've seen Many documented accounts thanks to the internet of how backwards and counterintuitive Oregon's water rights laws are, particularly when applied to small farms, which we should be enabling as a highest priority. Our current regulations are especially challenging to farms aiming to INCREASE their groundwater. The fiscal/human resources necessary in order to for example create a series of catchment ponds on one's property is frankly asanign. The state could devote resources to Encouraging land owners to take actions which increase the local groundwater supply, and to doing the same on state owned land, rather than further taxing their citizens' limited resources towards an aim that doesn't address the root problem.

Seriously guys, you're supposed to be our best and brightest, and to do what's best for the people of this state. And this is not it.

Sincerely,

Zoe Fenton