



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

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Before the
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair

TESTIMONY ON HB 2133, "ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AT WRD"

Presented by:
Oregon Water Resources Department
April 26, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 2133, a measure that streamlines Department transactions, by allowing electronic communications in lieu of hardcopy, whenever the Department and customer mutually agree to such communications.

Background:

The Department formed an Efficiency Review Group that met throughout 2009-2010 to explore ideas that could help the Department be more efficient. This concept grew out of that exercise. Members of the Efficiency Review Group support this concept, and several have provided letters of support, attached here for your review.

In several of the Water Resources Department's programs, documents must be passed back and forth between the Department and customers in hardcopy, according to statute. This involves extra time and materials, as these documents are largely created and used in an electronic format today, and then transferred to hardcopy for mailing to customers.

Proposal:

The Water Resources Department proposes to send and receive documents electronically when mutually agreed to with the customer. Examples of incoming documents include water right and other applications, filings, maps, and more. Examples of outgoing documents include initial reviews, proposed final orders, final orders, and other Department decisions.

The Department would still plan to keep permits, certificates, and other final decisions in a hardcopy file for long-term record keeping. And, Department documents, whether electronic or hardcopy, would still be available as part of the public record.

The savings realized by this proposal is primarily one of time and convenience. Use of electronic mail decreases overall processing time by a couple of days, compared to the wait for traditional mail.

Passage of this bill would allow the Water Resources Department to adopt rules:

- Allowing the submission of one or more types of document to the department by electronic means in lieu of submission by mailing or submission in written form;
- Allowing the department, with the consent of the recipient, to send one or more types of document in electronic form in lieu of mailing or other sending of the document in written form;

or

- Identifying acceptable means for verifying the authenticity of a document sent by electronic means in lieu of the provision of a certified copy of the document.

The bill specifies that the Department may not adopt rules to require the submission of documents to the department by electronic means. Nor may it require a recipient to consent to the receipt of documents from the department by electronic means.

The bill further notes that for the purposes of determining timeliness or calculating deadlines, a document sent by electronic means in accordance with Department rules is considered to be delivered when sent.

Finally, the bill states that the Department may reduce or waive the fee for a document that the department sends or receives by electronic means.

From: Steve Shropshire [mailto:steve.shropshire@jordanschrader.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 3:23 PM

To: Brenda Bateman

Cc: Dwight French; David Pilz; Filippi, David; brianposewitz@comcast.net; Adam Sussman

Subject: RE: Efficiency Review Group - could use your support

Brenda,

As a member of the ERG, I fully support efficiency improvement bills HB 2135 and HB 2133. I believe they will help save both the state and the people of Oregon time and money in the future by eliminating or streamlining unnecessary processes.

STEVEN L. SHROPSHIRE | Managing Shareholder
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From: Brian Posewitz [mailto:brianposewitz@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:37 AM
To: Brenda Bateman
Cc: Dwight French; 'David Pilz'; 'Filippi, David'; 'Adam Sussman'; 'Steve Shropshire'
Subject: RE: Efficiency Review Group - could use your support

Dear Ms. Bateman,

As a member of the Efficiency Review Group representing WaterWatch of Oregon, this will confirm support for HB 2133 as a reasonable means of improving efficiency of operations for the Oregon Water Resources Department. WaterWatch also endorses HB 2135 as a concept discussed and agreed upon by the ERG, provided that all actions for which the number of newspaper notices is reduced are included in the Department's weekly public notice that is mailed and made available on the Internet to interested parties.

Regards,

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From: David Pilz [mailto:David@thefreshwatertrust.org]

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:53 AM

To: Dwight French; Brenda Bateman

Subject: RE: Efficiency Review Group - could use your support

Brenda,

As a member of the ERG, I fully support efficiency improvement bills HB 2135 and HB 2133. I believe they will help save both the state and the people of Oregon time and money in the future by eliminating or streamlining unnecessary processes.

Thank you,

David Pilz

Senior Flow Restoration Manager

The Freshwater Trust (formerly Oregon Trout and the Oregon Water Trust)

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From: Adam Sussman [mailto:ASussman@gsiws.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 8:49 AM
To: Dwight French; David Pilz; Filippi, David; 'brianposewitz@comcast.net'; Steve Shropshire
Cc: Brenda Bateman; Kim Grigsby
Subject: RE: Efficiency Review Group - HB 2135 and HB 2133

Brenda:

Sorry for the delayed response, I have been out of the office.

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) works with a variety of water users all over Oregon. A common desire of our clients is to conduct their water rights-related business in the most efficient manner possible. This would include streamlining OWRD processes. The concepts outlined in HB 2135 and HB 2133 are a positive step in the Department's streamlining efforts and consistent with the discussion that took place in the Efficiency Review Group.

Sincerely,

Adam

Adam Sussman
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