

March 20, 2007

Senator Kurt Schrader  
Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Court Street NE., S-209  
Salem, OR, 97301

Representative Mary Nolan  
Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Court Street NE., H-486  
Salem, OR, 97301

Senator Richard Devlin  
Chair, Natural Resource Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court Street NE., S-316  
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Senator Schrader, Representative Nolan, and Senator Devlin,

Ballot Measure 66 requires that 65% of dedicated watershed funding be spent only for on-the-ground watershed restoration and protection activities (capital funding), and recognizes that a significant portion of funding, 35%, is needed for the activities that are required to develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of watershed restoration activities (non-capital funding).

There are significant Measure 66 capital funds in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) budget that can only be used for on-the-ground watershed restoration projects. Ultimately, successful work, however, depends upon local landowner outreach, project design, technical and monitoring feedback ... and not just dollars to do the actual dirt-turning work, which is only one piece of the puzzle. **The non-capital funding in OWEB's budget, which funds local conservation groups, monitoring, and technical assistance, is insufficient to implement these programs successfully.** Sufficient non-capital funds are essential to show progress, determine the effectiveness of past projects, and to inform future efforts. Without the right balance of non-capital and capital funding, these efforts will fail.

Don't set Oregon's internationally recognized effort to protect and restore watershed health up to fail. Please provide an adequate balance of Measure 66 capital and non-capital funding as follows:

- **\$26 million in OWEB Non-Capital Grant Funding, consisting of:**
  - **\$6 million for Watershed Council Capacity Funding**
  - **\$6 million for Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity Funding**
  - **\$14 million for the OWEB Non-Capital Grants Program**
- **\$61 million in OWEB Capital Grant Program Funding**

Investing in the right balance of OWEB non-capital and capital funds, as intended by Measure 66, and providing equal funding for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts is essential to demonstrating that a cooperative approach to conservation can achieve benefits for Oregon's environment. Engaging in a voluntary approach to environmental protection and restoration with landowners as a primary strategy backed by sound regulation is a preferable and more effective alternative to a solely adversarial regulatory approach aimed at achieving the same environmental objectives. We share this goal for Oregon, and we believe you do too. Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to working with you.

**Sincerely,**

**Allison Hensey and Lindsey Capps  
Oregon Environmental Council**

**Terry Witt and Paulette Pyle  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter**

**Bruce Taylor  
Defenders of Wildlife**

**Katie Fast  
Oregon Farm Bureau**

**Nan Evans  
The Nature Conservancy**

**Ray Wilkeson  
Oregon Forest Industries Council**

**Joe Whitworth  
Oregon Trout**

**Kristina McNitt  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association**

**Cc:** Senate President Peter Courtney  
Senator Kate Brown, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Ted Ferrioli, Senate Republican Leader  
Speaker Jeff Merkley  
Representative Dave Hunt, House Majority Leader  
Representative Wayne Scott, House Republican Leader  
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Mike Carrier, Governor's Natural Resources Advisor  
Representative Jackie Dingfelder  
Senator Brad Avakian  
Senator David Nelson  
Representative Chuck Burley  
Representative Brian Clem  
Representative Bill Garrard