

DESCHUTES BASIN BOARD OF CONTROL

c/o North Unit Irrigation District
2024 NW Beech Street
Madras, OR 97741

Arnold Irrigation District
Central Oregon Irrigation District
North Unit Irrigation District
Ochoco Irrigation District
Three Sisters Irrigation District
Swalley Irrigation District
Tumalo Irrigation District

June 2, 2008

The Honorable Ted Kulongoski
Governor
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

I am writing on behalf of the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, representing seven Central Oregon irrigation districts, to commend you and your staff for considering a statewide water development and ecosystem restoration initiative.

Throughout Oregon, there are opportunities for irrigation districts, municipalities, conservation groups, Indian tribes and other public and private interests to collaborate on measures to increase our water supplies, improve our efficiencies, and protect and restore ecosystems for fish and wildlife. The threat of climate change is an additional imperative that should encourage all of us to develop a smart, focused initiative to efficiently meet Oregon's water needs while protecting the environment, including fish and wildlife and their habitats. We believe sufficient funding for specific projects will be essential to the initiative's success.

The Deschutes Basin provides an excellent example of the initiative's potential for success. In collaboration with local, state and federal agencies, the Deschutes River Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Portland General Electric Company and others, the Deschutes Basin irrigation districts have undertaken an

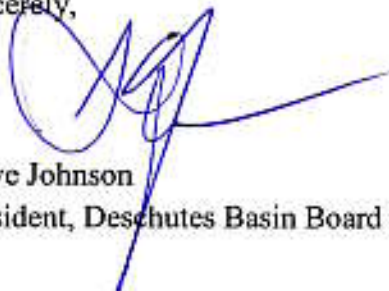
impressive number of water conservation and fisheries restoration projects - returning over 110 cubic feet per second of water to the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers and their tributaries annually - while continuing to supply water to our region's diverse agricultural economy.

The districts, our project partners, and several federal agencies have made significant investments in our projects. Additional funding from the State of Oregon for design, planning, and construction would enhance our ability to leverage federal funding and accelerate our conservation efforts – thereby achieving the initiative's goals, only faster. We respectfully encourage you to increase the amount of funding in the initiative dedicated to water conservation projects that benefit listed species and their habitats. Examples of such projects would include piping and lining earthen irrigation canals, with a portion of the conserved water being returned permanently to the Deschutes and/or Crooked Rivers and their tributaries.

We also encourage you to ensure the initiative includes adequate funding for new off-stream storage projects, particularly efficient projects that would provide water supplies for agricultural, urban and environmental needs.

We applaud your efforts to ensure a reliable water supply and healthy ecosystems for Oregon's future. The Deschutes Basin Board of Control looks forward to participating in the development of your initiative.

Sincerely,



Steve Johnson
President, Deschutes Basin Board of Control