



**Representative Ann Lininger**  
House District 38

**900 Court Street  
Salem, Oregon 97031**

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April 17, 2015

Governor Kate Brown  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to express concern about the proposed transfer of public water rights from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to the City of Cascade Locks in a manner that evades public interest review while enabling a private company to extract Oregon's clean water.

ODFW possesses public water rights to spring water that it uses for its Oxbow Fish Hatchery. ODFW seeks to transfer those rights to the City of Cascade Locks so the City can sell the water to a private company, Nestle, which would extract and sell the water for its bottled water business. In exchange for ODFW's spring water rights, the City would give ODFW a portion of the City's ground water rights to support ODFW's hatchery.

This transaction is problematic for two reasons. First, it has been structured in a way that avoids crucial public interest review. Second, it establishes a dangerous precedent regarding use of Oregon's water.

Until recently, ODFW was proceeding with a water exchange that would have required a public interest review. It would entail evaluation of whether the proposal is consistent with conservation of the resource and avoids unreasonable use of the waters involved. The new deal structure circumvents this requirement. We oppose any effort to rework this deal to avoid public interest review.

Second, we question the merit of transferring Oregon's public water rights so a corporation can bottle and sell our water. Nestle is pumping millions of gallons of water out of Sacramento, California during that state's historic drought crisis. Oregon has declared drought emergencies

in five counties. As water becomes increasingly scarce and sought-after in the West, we should not enter lightly into a deal to extract it.

We urge you to require a public interest review as part of this contemplated transfer of water rights. We also urge you to consider carefully the ramifications of allowing entities to buy up and extract Oregon's water.

Thank you for your consideration.



Rep. Ann Lininger  
House District 38



Rep. Lew Frederick  
House District 43



Rep. Barbara Smith Warner  
House District 45



Rep. Ken Helm  
House District 34



Rep. Phil Barnhart  
House District 11



Rep. Keny-Guyer  
House District 46



Rep. Peter Buckley  
House District 5



Rep. Nancy Nathanson  
House District 13



Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senate District 23

cc: Mr. Curt Melcher, Director, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Mr. Richard Whitman, Natural Resources Policy Advisor to the Governor