

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

February 23, 2001  
8:30 AM

Hearing Room E  
Tape 29

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**     **Rep. Betsy Close, Chair**  
                                  **Rep. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Rep. Mark Hass**  
                                  **Rep. Deborah Kafoury**  
                                  **Rep. Al King**  
                                  **Rep. Jeff Kruse**  
                                  **Rep. Jan Lee**

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**     **Rep. Jenson**  
                                  **Rep. Morgan, Vice-Chair**

**STAFF PRESENT:**       **Megan Palau, Administrator**  
                                  **Shannon Relaford, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**     **HB 2180 Work Session**  
                                  **HB 2795 Work Session**  
                                  **HB 2790 Public Hearing**

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**These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.**

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<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 29, A</b>		
003	Chair Close	Convenes meeting at 8:42 a.m. Opens work session on HB 2180.
<b><u>HB 2180 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
006	Megan Palau	Presents overview of HB 2180.
035	<b>Rep. Kruse</b> <b>Chair</b>	<b>Moves the -1 amendment into HB 2180.</b> <b>Hearing no objection declares the amendments moved to HB 2180.</b>
040	<b>Rep. Kruse</b>	<b>MOTION: Move HB 2180 as amended to the Committee on Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation.</b> <b>VOTE: 7-0</b> <b>AYE: 7 - Hass, Kafoury, King, Kruse, Lee, Monnes Anderson, Close</b> <b>EXCUSED: 2 - Jenson, Morgan</b>
060	<b>Chair Close</b>	<b>The motion CARRIES.</b> Closes work session on HB 2180 and opens work session on HB 2795.
<b><u>HB 2795 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
069	Ron Yockim	Attorney for various water districts states he will be glad to answer questions but has no testimony.
073	<b>Rep. Lee</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves HB 2795 to the floor with a DO PASS</b>

**recommendation.**

**VOTE: 7-0**

**AYE: 7 - Hass, Kafoury, King, Kruse, Lee, Monnes  
Anderson, Close**

**EXCUSED: 2 - Jenson, Morgan**

**The motion CARRIES.**

**REP. HASS will lead discussion on the floor.** Closes work session on HB 2795. Opens public hearing on HB 2790.

075 Chair Close

**HB 2790 PUBLIC HEARING**

081 Palau

Presents explanation of the bill.

092 Kristina McNitt

Oregon Water Resource Congress presents testimony in support of bill. **(EXHIBIT A.)**

145 Chair Close

Questions if there has been a problem with people being elected that did not want the position.

150 Bev Bridgewater

District Manager of the Irrigon District replies not that she knows of but if they have their signature on the petition it indicates their awareness.

158 Rep. Hass

Questions what the point is in the current law requiring ten signatures.

162 Bridgewater

Responds elections are based on landowners and it makes sense to have people within the division nominate a candidate. Continues by saying a small district may have only 42 members so getting signatures may be a problem, whereas a district with 300 or 400 members it won't be a problem, therefore the number of signatures seems to be fair and workable.

178 McNitt

Explains the two ways of getting on a ballot, either with 10 signatures or through an assembly of 25 people.

183 Rep. Lee

Comments that Rep. Hass may be concerned that the only people who can vote or serve on a board have to be landowners.

189 Rep. King

Questions the language using the word electors and not landowners.

197 Bridgewater

Explains that electors are defined as landowners 18 years or older and have to own land within the division or district.

200 McNitt

Further explains electors.

205 Chair Close

Asks for clarification if this is similar to a road district. Those people are paying the fees and are in the district and vote on the positions.

216 McNitt

States she is not familiar with road districts but that theory applies to irrigation districts.

219 Rep. Kafoury

Questions the rationale behind the filing deadline.

223 Bridgewater

Explains it was changed because the deadline could have been contested. The simplest way was to go back to 35 days and not sooner than 75 days.

242 Chair Close

Closes public hearing on HB 2790. Adjourns meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Shannon Relaford,  
Committee Assistant

Megan Palau,  
Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A – HB 2790, written testimony, Kristina McNitt, 2 pp.**