

PREPARED STATEMENT
OF
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ON BEHALF OF
THE UPPER KLAMATH WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON S. 2379

June 3, 2014

Chairman Schatz, Ranking Member Lee, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Upper Klamath Water Users Association, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S. 2379. We in the Upper Basin are grateful for the leadership of Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, Senator Feinstein, and Senator Boxer for introducing S. 2379 to stabilize the economy of the Klamath Basin. We urge Congress to enact this vital legislation this year.

We work for power, water and regulatory security through settlement for family farms and ranches that irrigate in the tributaries above Klamath Lake. I ranch on the Sycan with my husband and four children. We also run cattle on the Upper Williamson, which has stayed in our family for 103 years. I'm happy to have my fourteen-year-old son Jack here with me today. Enactment of this legislation not only will help advance the economic interests of the region today, but will give Jack if he chooses and the next generation of family farmers and ranchers an opportunity to build a future in the area we call home.

Unfortunately, the Klamath Basin has been known for its water crisis, not for the healthy food that hardworking families grow, our amazing wildlife refuges, or the Tribes whose ancestors have lived in our basin for thousands of years. This bill represents well over a decade and a half of work by diverse stakeholders to try and find durable solutions that protect our economy and our natural resources.

If you enter a potato shed in Malin, or come to a branding in Beatty, or watch trucks in Modoc Point being loaded with premium quality Alfalfa hay headed to dairies that produce milk for this nation, you get a feel for an economy that is working. However, that economy only goes to work if we have statesmanship, leadership and partnership from our Federal Government. Our agriculture leaders have become experts not just in how to grow crops or handle livestock but in how to navigate our relationship with various Federal mandates that affect hundreds of farm and ranch business' where I live and work every day.

We understand the Federal Governments Tribal Trust relationship and how that in turn affects our ability to irrigate. We understand the mandates for us to create a healthy environment for fish along our streams to provide protections asked for in the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. We ask the Senate to pass this legislation so that our

business' can thrive while we comply with laws this country has required of us. We ask for accountability and an investment by the Federal Government in this settlement. In turn, our communities will leverage a much larger and sustained economic return for this nation from the families in our basin like mine, and like Don Gentry's, who are proud to do the hard work that keeps our communities whole. We also commit to delivering the protections to the environment that is asked of us in a way that I believe few river basin in this country are prepared to do.

This settlement represents common people, Tribal members, farmers, ranchers, government workers, conservationists, philanthropists, scientists, and others bringing the best of themselves to this work and living by the Golden Rule. This settlement deserves to be cherished. It took decades of hardship, thousands of hours of work, and personal sacrifice to reach this point. Please join us in the simple goodness that brought us to this day where we choose to look beyond what divides us toward a future for our children.

Thank you again for inviting me to testify. It is an honor to be here.