

PROCLAMATION APPLAUDING SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2014, President Obama signed into law, H.R. 2640, the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act (Public Law 113-244), a bill amended in the U.S. Senate by Senator Jeff Merkley; and

WHEREAS, Over the past several years, Senator Jeff Merkley developed and introduced several bills in the Senate regarding the management of water at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Arthur R. Bowman Dam, including S. 1771, the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act on November 21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, In a bipartisan and determined effort, and in the final hours of the 113<sup>th</sup> session of Congress, Senator Merkley worked closely with Congressman Greg Walden and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to amend H.R. 2640 and secure its passage in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, The Senator's amendments, which were unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on December 11, 2014, strengthened H.R. 2640 to provide clear legal certainty regarding the amount of water that will be stored and released each year for local farmers, ranchers, and the City of Prineville, and for the water supplies that may be stored and released for fish and wildlife purposes in the Crooked River; and

WHEREAS, In the final days of the 113<sup>th</sup> session of Congress, Senator Merkley displayed a remarkable commitment to Central Oregon's agricultural community, and to the people who live and work in Crook County, and to enhancing the Crooked River's fish and wildlife values; and

WHEREAS, His dedication to a responsible, sustainable bill, his collaborative partnership with Congressman Greg Walden, and his deft management of the Senate's parliamentary procedures enabled him to advance the bill through Congress; and

WHEREAS, Senator Merkley actively worked to ensure local, regional, and national interests participated in the legislation's development, including our local community, conservation groups, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and many other stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Prineville, Crook County, Ochoco Irrigation District, and North Unit Irrigation District applaud Senator Jeff Merkley for his unyielding commitment to the long-term water supply certainty of our community and for his dedication to responsible, sustainable public policy in Oregon.