

February 26, 2013

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Statement in support of Senate Bill 425



Rogue Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization works to protect and restore water quality and fish populations in the Rogue River Basin of southwest Oregon.

Rogue Riverkeeper supports the passage of SB 425.

SB 425 would remove a significant loophole in the water right statutes regarding water right transfers. The current language allows transfers to other uses or diversion locations, effectively creating a new right, without considering the rules those new rights need consider on fish and stream flows.

SB 425 would correct this oversight, and allow OWRD to consider the availability of water and impacts to stream flows in these cases, while allowing all existing water rights to be used as they were intended originally

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Rogue Riverkeeper hopes that you consider the important issues this bill would address.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Forrest English".

Forrest English
Program Director
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