

Public Comment
SB 425

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Qualifications:

Served on State's Ground Water Advisory Committee for 6 years, Chair for 2 years

Currently Co-Chair of State's Geologic Map Advisory Committee

Certified Water Rights Examiner for 13 years

Chair of the Oregon Ground Water Association's Government Affairs Committee

SB 425 should not be passed for the following reasons:

- Currently the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has the ability to comment and protest on any transfer addressed by this bill if there is concern that the transfer will cause a "loss of in-stream habitat for native fish or native wildlife in a stream reach that is not protected by an existing in-stream water right."
- ODFW currently has the ability to apply for in-stream rights on any stream reach that is not protected with an existing in-stream right if there is concern that there is the potential for loss of in-stream habitat for native fish or native wildlife.
- This bill has the potential to open the door for frivolous protests that may be filed simply to cause delays in processing a transfer application.
- This bill would unnecessarily increase costs and place additional burdens on both OWRD and the applicant.
- The State's current Integrated Water Resources Strategy is supposed to give equal weight and consideration to all beneficial uses. This bill has the real potential to shift that balance to give greater consideration to ecological uses. Therefore, this bill defies the intent and purpose of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.