



SB 1512

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources February 5, 2014

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

With proposed amendments, WaterWatch is neutral on SB 1512.

WaterWatch believes there is value in allowing instream transfers before the Klamath Basin decree is finalized. This bill allows this temporary tool. This bill also provides flexibility to agricultural water users to temporarily transfer their agricultural water rights to lands where that water use will be most productive. As amended, this bill balances the flexibility granted to the many agricultural water users across the basin with tools necessary to restore and protect streamflows in the basin.

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