



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS.

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Feb. 13, 2014

Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Chair Hass and Committee Members:

My name is Sue Marshall and I am here representing the Tualatin Riverkeepers, a tributary of the Willamette River located predominately in Washington and Clackamas Counties.

Tualatin Riverkeepers opposes SB 1554. While we appreciate the desire to protect school funding and county tax bases, we believe this bill pits one public benefit against another. Tualatin Riverkeepers is concerned with water quality and the ability to use acquisitions and easements for conservation purposes.

Applying permanent protection to riparian areas, flood plains, wetlands along stream corridors is a very important tool in protecting and restoring water quality. These are agreements that are entered into voluntarily by land owners. We should all be grateful for their willingness to do so.

While I understand the bill would not apply to Washington County, it does apply to Clackamas County - the Tualatin flows through both counties and water quality investments made Washington County – up some where in the billion dollar range – could be undermined in downstream in the neighboring county.

To protect and restore water quality you really need to make good use of every tool in the tool box. This includes encouraging and incenting streamside property owners to participate in conservation programs. We are afraid that SB 1554 would undermine hard won improvements in clean water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Marshall
Legislative Liaison
Tualatin Riverkeepers