

I am opposed to SB 977-1.

If the State of Oregon feels that too much water is being devoted to agriculture, and we need to re-allocate some of that water to cities, then the Oregon Legislature can pass a law to change it.

SB 977-1 is a back-door way to accomplish that without involving due process. It gives state agencies the power to seize agriculture water rights and removes the right to timely appeal from farmers. SB 9077-1 allows the state to seize a farmer's water rights, and by the time the farmer could appeal this action, the farmer would be destroyed financially by the loss of a crop.

We all need water, but we need the products and the revenue that agriculture provides Oregon as well. We need a just and equitable process for resolving ongoing questions about water rights, rather than empowering agencies to destroy farmers on the behalf of cities.

By what process did the Senate Judiciary Committee decide to send 977-1 to a floor vote, and what was Sen Manning's role in that process?

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