



The Conservation Angler Supports Senate Bill 427

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

The Conservation Angler supports Senate Bill 427 to safeguard streamflow in water right transfers. Wild fish and wildlife were the original holders of Oregon's water resources. SB 427 fixes an outdated loophole in Oregon law that has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) to approve applications for water right transfers without thorough consideration whether the change will harm streamflow. Lower streamflow levels impede fish migration and overall aquatic health, and impair water quality, all while decreasing scenic and recreation values.

Oregon's water laws have favored extraction over public values. SB 427 provides a timely and impactful opportunity to protect fish, wildlife, and public values in the 2025 legislative session.

SB 427 provides an opportunity to [close a harmful regulatory loophole](#) in Oregon's water transfer laws which allows old water rights to serve new uses, move to new diversion points, or change the place of use without any environmental review, which effectively nullifies Oregon's ability to protect instream values on hundreds of streams across the state.

Existing law should not allow WRD to approve water right transfers without considering impacts to stream flows and the fish, wildlife, and water quality they support. We urge the Legislature to close this problematic loophole and keep our rivers from further harm. [SB 427 does just that!](#)

Senate Bill 427 safeguards our streams — as well as the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support — by ensuring voluntary water right changes won't further diminish stream flows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.

[This change protects Oregon's flowing river legacy for both present and future generations.](#)

Please support SB 427: Senate Bill 427 would require the state to ensure stream flows are not diminished when reviewing proposed water right changes.

SB 427 represents the forethought deriving from the collective water expertise of [Oregon Water Partnership](#) (OWP) who have joined forces to tackle Oregon's toughest water challenges.

The Conservation Angler urges passage of SB 427.

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