



February 25, 2025

Senator Golden, Chair  
Senator Nash, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire

**Re: Support for SB 427 and protect instream flows**

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

Native Fish Society<sup>1</sup> writes today to express strong support for Senate Bill 427. This legislation addresses a critical gap in Oregon's water management by requiring the Oregon Water Resources Department to consider the potential impacts on streamflows when reviewing water right transfer applications.

Currently, a loophole exists in the process that allows for changes to water rights without adequately assessing the consequences for our vital waterways. This oversight can lead to diminished streamflows, negatively affecting fish populations, water quality, and the overall health of our ecosystems.

Senate Bill 427 provides a common-sense solution by integrating streamflow considerations into the existing review process. This ensures that water right changes are made responsibly, balancing the needs of water users with the preservation of our natural resources. It's a necessary step to modernize our water laws and protect the essential role our streams play in Oregon's environment and economy.

NFS urges you to support Senate Bill 427 and safeguard the health of Oregon's streams for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairbrother  
Legislative & Policy Director

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<sup>1</sup> The Native Fish Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to restore abundant wild fish, free-flowing rivers, and thriving local communities across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.