

Submitter: Becky Orf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB427

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

I support Senate Bill 427 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers.

For far too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm streamflows. Lower water levels in a stream can hurt fish, impair water quality, and decrease scenic and recreation values. The water in our streams is essential for our communities, fish, and environment. Senate Bill 427 safeguards our streams and the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support. This bill ensures voluntary water right changes won't further diminish streamflows.

I urge your support of SB 427 by moving this bill to passage.