

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

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

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

The water in our streams is critical to the economic survival of every community. It is vital to our salmon and our food. It belongs to all of us. Yet for far too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the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.

Senate Bill 427 is a correction of policy needed to safeguard our streams—and the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support—ensuring voluntary water right changes won't further diminish streamflows. Please closes this dangerous loophole and bring modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.

Support SB 427 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard.

Sincerely,