

Submitter: Patrick Mahoney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1154

I oppose SB 1154 for the following reasons:

An identical or nearly identical bill—HB3419—was recently introduced in the House but was withdrawn after widespread public opposition. I find the continued attempt at government overreach deeply disappointing for such proposals resurfacing now in the Senate.

Oregonians are deeply embedded into the wilderness, farms, ranches, and homes of this wonderful state. It's with much concern that government officials would come onto property by force to 'test' wells for the purpose of metering them for water taxes or to close them down completely - placing the onerous burden of all water (and eventually septic removals) as well as holding tanks. Add to this the costs of the city/county/state to provide water, and this is a recipe for economic disaster across the state. These costs are borne entirely by homeowners and farmers, not the State. To now add fees or impose state controls on these privately funded water sources is both unjust and unnecessary.

'Voluntary reaction and implementation by the citizens' is both an untruth (because if there are multiple agencies involved, that requires multiple lawsuits or 'by force') and a euphemism for "for now it's voluntary."

This bill is a fishing expedition to find monies around the State. It's important to note the difference between the use of wells versus a superfund--which is what the State of Oregon seems to be implying--that Oregonians with wells, a method to make money and keep control.

I URGE you to vote NO on this bill.