

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

This bill sounds like just another way to tax/fee residents out of their properties. We moved to Central Oregon just 2 years ago. We knew in retirement we could not afford to stay in the Willamette valley as utilities and property taxes were becoming too costly to stay in our home there. I purchased an inexpensive property and built a small affordable home. We paid a \$300 water rights fee to the State of Oregon as part of our building cost in 2021. We also paid off everything we own so we could afford retirement. Utilities, property taxes and rising costs of property insurance are all making it harder to afford every year. **NOW THE STATE OF OREGON WANTS TO IMPLEMENT A METERED COST OF WATER.** My water usage is very low with a 2 person household, no yard as we rock scraped and took measures to conserve water and reduce wildfire risk. My community backs up to the Gilchrist State Forest who has not managed the wildfire risks by clearing brush and thinning the forest for many years. Part of my largest water usage, if it should ever occur would be to extinguish or suppress an imminent wildfire, **AND NOW TO ADD INSULT TO THE OVERGROWN FORESTS, THE STATE OF OREGON IS CONSIDERING IMPLEMENTING A METERED WATER USAGE!**
Does the State of Oregon want Oregonians to retire elsewhere? Because it's just getting too costly to be an Oregonian anymore.