

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

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife

I write in OPPOSITION to SB1154 which seeks to control water resources, including domestic private wells and community resources.

The bill, while referencing focus on specific areas of the state, has the potential to include the entire state and works to remove personal property rights that are an inherit liberty given in the Constitution. This bill is written to mirror urban water policy where government covers the cost of infrastructure, which is not at all comparable to private wells where property owners have paid for all infrastructure and maintenance.

I am extremely concerned that this bill does not provide for:

- Citizen participation with no political control on developing a plan. Politicians have an agenda that is being revealed during this legislative session – control the land, control the water, control our money, etc. This bill presents the potential for our Governor to declare the entire state a “ground water quality concern area” during drought periods. Since this bill excludes urban water sources, in that situation the regulations would apply only to those in rural areas resulting in tremendous harm and damage to the rural community.
- Citizen rights within land use policy. The bills states “A county may prohibit the development of any new residential dwelling or accessory dwelling otherwise allowed under this chapter within a ground water quality management area unless the dwelling is connected to urban water supply services under subsection (1) of this section or a community water well described in ORS 537.621 (2)(b).” So essentially once our Governor designates an “area of concern” the relevant county has the right to cease and stop all development of private land? Here is where the State cannot be trusted as developers get tax exemptions, special funding perks, approval to do just about anything outside of rules and regulations while hardworking citizens could be denied their rights on their own property
- This bill also appears to require any feedlot, auction or dairy operating within a ground water management area to obtain new permitting from DEQ or Dept of Agriculture. Oregon farmers and ranchers have been under attack by the State of Oregon for several decades. Washington County use to mirror Tillamook County with dairy farms as a major agribusiness. In the past few decades Washington County has seen upwards of 40+ dairy farms in Washington County go out of business as government rules, fees, pressures of Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion on to prime Type 1 and Type 2 soils, etc. add tremendous burden to sectors of agribusiness that operate under low revenue profits. This has resulted in a

loss of jobs and farm retail infrastructure as businesses close with a reduction of dairy's and lost farmland.

For these reasons and the Constitutional right to private property, please vote NO on SB1154 as the bill does nothing to support rural residents with maintaining quality domestic water for our property use. Thank you.