

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1154, particularly as it pertains to homeowners like myself who rely on private wells for their water supply. As a private well owner in Oregon, I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts this bill could have on our access to water and the additional burdens it could impose on individuals and families who already manage their own water resources.

One of my main concerns is the bill's potential to impose unnecessary regulations and fees on private well owners. Managing a private well is already a significant responsibility, and I have invested time and money to ensure my well is safe and reliable. The provisions of SB 1154 would place further financial strain on homeowners like myself, without offering tangible benefits or addressing the core issues of water safety and accessibility. It is essential that the state recognize the importance of respecting private property rights and avoid penalizing well owners who take the proper steps to manage their water resources responsibly.

Additionally, I fear that the bill could inadvertently limit access to water for rural communities that are heavily reliant on private wells. As it stands, we face unique challenges in ensuring our water is safe and sustainable, and any new regulations that could add complexity or cost would only further complicate our ability to maintain these essential resources.

Private well owners already deal with the rising costs of water treatment, maintenance, and testing. Instead of placing additional burdens on us through SB 1154, I believe the focus should be on supporting and providing resources for those of us who are doing our part to responsibly manage our water systems. The bill, as currently written, risks making a challenging situation even harder for rural homeowners who rely on private wells to meet their needs.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider SB 1154 and ensure that any proposed legislation is fair and just for all Oregonians, including private well owners. It is essential that we protect the rights of homeowners while also ensuring that our water resources remain safe, sustainable, and accessible to all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.