

Submitter: Teresa DeLorenzo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 1153 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers.

Water is critical to protecting our environment and providing water for human use. Water is life and water resources need to be managed for their whole range of benefits.

An outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the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 1153 safeguards our streams—and the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support—by ensuring a narrow subset of proposed non-municipal water right changes won't further diminish flows in unprotected streams. This bill also enhances existing processes for tribal consultation with a goal of identifying and addressing potential impacts to tribal interests in water.

Please support of SB 1153 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard.