

Submitter: Rachel Birge
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1154

Thank you for your time to hear my testimony on SB 1154.

Here are all the very serious problems I see with the bill as currently amended.

1. The ability to walk on people's property without due cause to do ANYTHING is a violation of the US constitution's 4th amendment rights. This should be voluntary only.
2. I have never nor will I ever condone people drinking contaminated water. There is treatment available for these situations. In many countries, water quality is so poor it must be ran through RO systems. (Reverse Osmosis) Many bottled water companies use this method. While expensive yes...it is very much possible. Many people use point of use RO systems, which is significantly cheaper than a whole house RO system. Again not ideal, and I absolutely agree that we as citizens should do everything in our power to try and remedy the situation. That said again...without giving up our constitutional rights.
3. Everything in this bill that will require backflow valves, abandonment of old wells, septic systems, and other things. There is ZERO subsidization as amended for these people. I have been told that they will not be bringing forward the abandonment of comingling wells section of this bill, and I will hold legislators to that. I am NOT in favor of these wells. That said, without just subsidization, this could cost homeowners 20-60,000\$ or more!
Same goes for septic systems. If a septic has failed, there is no compensation for these fixes.
4. This bill does not just limit these areas to Nitrates, It could be intepreted by state agencies, to cover other contiminations as well. (arsenic, TDS, Minerals, Iron, Bacteria, and others). This is dangerous because other areas of the state have their own issues. Again, this is where water treatment comes into play.
5. THIS BILL SHOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH GALLONS PER MINUTE. There should be ZERO language on water quantity in this bill. This is about contamination ONLY and should focus on just that. The State did not pay for my well. It does not pay to maintain my well, so why would I have to pay more to use my well? It is discrimination against rural people. We would have to pay to install, maintain, and power our water source vs this with access to "city" water that only pay for usage from a company or municipality.

This bill is a direct attack on farmers and ranchers.

Thank you.