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PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

## SB 1513 Testimony of Jim Myron WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources February 2, 2012

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

## WaterWatch supports SB 1513

<u>What SB 1513 does</u>: SB 1513 eliminates the current sunset on the state's split season leasing program. Split season leasing allows water right holders to split use of their water between the existing consumptive water right and an instream water right within the same year.

<u>WaterWatch supports SB 1513:</u> Split season leasing is a creative streamflow restoration tool that allows flexibility to water right holders to both use their water right and participate in streamflow restoration efforts.

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