



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
From: Paige Spence, Oregon Conservation Network  
Date: January 24, 2019

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 51**

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on SB 51. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support for this bill as currently drafted.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN represents 34 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations, the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club being one. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

SB 51 aims to give the Water Resources Department the authority to change a storage water right holder's change of purpose for their water right. By allowing for this change in the character of use for water that a user is already storing, SB 51 provides the needed flexibility to maximize the water right's efficacy, be it for municipal, agricultural, or fish habitat.

The Oregon Conservation Network urges your aye vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Spence".

Paige Spence  
Oregon Conservation Network Director  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters