

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to ask you to oppose senate bill 977-1. In most cases this bill will not effect much, but in the cases where OWRD is testing new theory's this bill would devastate small business.

Where this bill will be used is in places where there is an extremely high in stream water right and OWRD is trying to connect surface and ground water. In my particular area the evidence that OWRD is putting forward to support their claims is at best questionable and only applies to some wells in the area. With that OWRD has applied it to everyone in the area shutting off all wells and surface water uses, including in a few cases people's house water that they use to drink. OWRD has been taken to court and has yet to win. Recently they were forced to settle a case. Before that they have been changing their science before a case could go all the way through the court system, which then causes the cases to be thrown out. That is not the position of someone in the right.

If this law gets passed it would be almost impossible for people to fight OWRD when OWRD is in the wrong.

Again I ask you to oppose Bill 977-1

Thank you for your time,

Brandan