

Submitter: Michael Lang
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB427

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Please support Senate Bill 427 to safeguard stream flows in water right transfers.

For too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the approval of applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm stream flows. Lower water levels in streams can hurt fish, impair water quality, and decrease scenic and recreation values.

Senate Bill 427 safeguards our streams and the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support, by ensuring that voluntary water right changes won't further diminish stream flows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings common-sense values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer process.

I urge you to support SB 427. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael Lang