

Submitter: Elizabeth Schaedler  
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,

I support Senate Bill 427 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers.

I am a 3rd generation Oregonian. Oregon is the most beautiful states in the country, and we must protect our waterways and streams. For a hundred years, my family has been outdoorsy: we hike, camp, fish, swim-in and even (sometimes if it's really clean) drink the stream water. With more people, more demands on Oregon water, and occasional water shortages due to drought conditions, we do not want to further endanger the environment. Please protect streams now.

The outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm streamflows. Lower water levels in a stream 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 voluntary water right changes won't further diminish streamflows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.

I urge your support of SB 427 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard. Please stand up and protect Oregon.

Thank you  
Elizabeth Schaedler