

Submitter: Craig Lacy
On Behalf Of: The Vocal Seniority
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB427

I wish to support SB427.

Many of our streams in Eastern Oregon are over appropriated and are suffering as climate change causes ever increasing droughts. This legislation would help things from getting even worse. By ensuring that water transfers don't impair streams any further is a step in the right direction. I urge your support.

Many of our streams are over appropriated. Water right holders don't pay the state for their water and it is possible to sell that right for a profit. One way to help resolve the over appropriation problem would be to have 25% of the transferred water go to augment instream flows, (if the transfer was allowed under this provision). Over time this would help address some of our stream flow problems especially in the high desert.

Many of our water rights were issued at a time when environmental considerations were not addressed. Times are different and we should address those weaknesses and do what we can to improve the health of our streams.