

Submitter: Margaret Stephens
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.

Our streams are essential factors in providing food and for our salmon populations.

That is why I support removing the outdated loophole that has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm stream flows. Lower water levels in a stream can hurt fish, impair water quality, and decrease scenic and recreation values.

Senate Bill 427 safeguards our streams by ensuring voluntary water right changes won't further diminish stream flows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.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.