

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

Support for Senate Bill 427
Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

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

For far too long, an outdated loophole in Oregon law has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve water right transfers without adequately considering their impact on streamflows. Lower water levels can harm fish, impair water quality, and reduce scenic and recreational values.

Senate Bill 427 closes this loophole by ensuring that voluntary water right changes do not further diminish streamflows. This narrow but essential fix reflects modern environmental values and protects Oregon's waterways for generations to come.

I urge your support of SB 427 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will protect.

Thank you for considering my support.

Sincerely,
Bill Montgomery
Retired Water treatment operator