



CITY OF BEND  
WATER SERVICES

February 24, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97701

**LOCATION**

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**CITY MANAGER**

Eric King

RE: Oppose SB 427

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, Senator Girod, Senator Prozanski, Senator Taylor:

We are writing to voice our opposition to Senate Bill 427 on behalf of the City of Bend, Oregon. Our community relies on the efficient management and transfer of water rights to ensure a secure water future. Senate Bill 427 will significantly slow this process, hindering water management flexibility for cities like Bend, as well as for other cities, farms, ranches, and irrigation districts across the state.

Most of Oregon's surface water sources are fully appropriated, and new groundwater allocation rules further limit new water rights. The transfer process is essential for municipal and agricultural users to manage water use and secure additional supplies. Senate Bill 427 introduces a broad new standard requiring OWRD to determine if a transfer will result in "diminishment of streamflow," likely causing extensive delays and protests.

Oregon's legislature should enhance water right flexibility to improve operational efficiencies while protecting existing rights. Senate Bill 427 does the opposite.

We urge you to vote against Senate Bill 427 and look forward to future discussions on improving or updating Oregon's transfer process.

Sincerely,

Mike Buettner, City of Bend Water Services Director



**Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Mike Buettner at [mbuettner@bendoregon.gov](mailto:mbuettner@bendoregon.gov) or 541-213-1911. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

