

Submitter: Mary Jo Mann
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 rights transfers.

The water in our streams supports our salmon and our food, and it fuels our families.
Water is critical for the life and welfare of our citizens.

Yet for far too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources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 rights changes won't further
diminish streamflows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings
modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water rights transfer review
process.

I urge your support of SB 427 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard.
Thank you for your consideration.