

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

To Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

I am a native Oregonian who has enjoyed decades of kayaking, canoeing, streamside hiking, camping, birding, and nature photography. I support Senate Bill 427 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers. The Oregon Water Resources Department has approved applications for water right transfers without adequately considering whether the change will harm streamflows. This outdated loophole in Oregon law must be closed. 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 right changes won't further diminish streamflows. This narrow fix closes the loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process. I urge your support of SB 427 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard.

Sincerely,
Barbara L. Taylor