



**OREGON
WILD**

Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

To: Senate Committee on Natural
Resource and Wildfire

From: Oregon Wild

Re: Support SB 427

Date: February 26, 2025

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Oregon Wild supports Senate Bill 427 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers.

As you know, an exemption in Oregon law allows 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 right changes protect streamflows. This narrow fix closes a narrow loophole and modernizes Oregon's water right transfer review process.

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

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla
state forest policy coordinator
Oregon Wild