

Submitter: Corey Buttry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3501

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3501. This bill would prevent Oregon from considering the public interest when reviewing water right transfers—setting us even further behind other Western states that have already adopted stronger protections for public resources.

Oregon's water belongs to all of us. The state should be ensuring that water right transfers don't harm fish and wildlife, water quality, cultural resources, public health, or local economies—not barring agencies from even considering these impacts.

HB 3501 would also make it prohibitively expensive for most Oregonians to challenge agency decisions, increasing the cost tenfold and effectively silencing public participation in decisions that affect our shared water resources. This is unacceptable.

Instead of moving backwards, I urge you to support SB 427 and SB 1153, which would finally close this loophole and require the state to assess how transfers impact our rivers, communities, and environment.

Please stand up for Oregon's water and oppose HB 3501.

Sincerely,  
Corey Buttry