



**Statement of OLAWA, the Oregon Land And Water Alliance  
In Opposition to House Bill 3501**

My name is Eva Eagle, and I live northeast of Sisters, Oregon. I am the President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to this bill on behalf of OLAWA and its Board of Directors.

OLAWA is strongly opposed to HB3501, which prohibits the state from considering water quality or the impact on fish and wildlife when considering water transfer of existing water rights. When new water applications are considered, they are evaluated against the public interest, but proposed ownership changes to *existing* rights are evaluated only against their impact on other water rights holders, and not to the public at large.

This bill takes further steps to eliminate any consideration of the public interest in the transfer of public waters, including fast tracking the approval process and increasing costs for challenges by members of the public. Passage of HB3501 would be an ill-conceived new and liberal standard for water rights transfers, and it would be detrimental to the public interest.

OLAWA asks that you defeat this ill-considered legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue.

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