

Submitter:	Anja Phenix
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1153

I support Senate Bill 1153 to safeguard fish habitat and water quality in water right transfers. The water in these streams is Oregon's lifeblood. It grows salmon and food, and it fuels families. I'm an Alaskan who frequently visits Oregon and our relatives in that great state. My family ties us to our neighbors upstream and downstream. These waters belong to all of us. Yet for far too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the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 our streams. Lower water levels in a stream can hurt fish, impair water quality, and decrease scenic and recreation values.

Senate Bill 1153 safeguards our streams - and the fish habitat, water quality, and cultural values they support - by ensuring the state doesn't grant permission for voluntary water right changes that further harm fish habitat and water quality. This fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process. I urge your support of SB 1153 and the life-sustaining streams it will safeguard.