

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

Born and raised in Oregon, and currently a small business owner on the southern Oregon Coast in Port Orford, I am very concerned about protecting our rivers, forests and natural resources in these intense, political times.

Please vote yes for SB 1153 and SB 427.

SB1153 would require the state to consider impacts to instream habitat and water quality when reviewing proposed water right changes (called "transfers"). The bill also creates new avenues for Tribal involvement, and clarifies that the state can require measurement and reporting of water use as a condition of approval.

SB 1153 was introduced last month at the request of the Governor's Office, and it would bring Tribes and two additional state agencies (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) into the application review process. Wild Salmon Center and our partners in Oregon Water Partnership actually considered a similar approach when we wrote our bill, SB 427.

SB 427 adds a new "no diminishment of streamflow" review standard into the Oregon Water Resources Department's existing review process: a standard that will indirectly safeguard fish and water quality.

Oregonian's way of life hangs in the balance now. I would very much like us to be leading the way nationally in prioritizing climate health, forests, wildlife habitats and healthy ecosystems for all.

Thanks you,

Charlie J. Stephens
Port Orford, Oregon