



To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)  
Re: Testimony support of SB 1153  
Date: March 21, 2025

**Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to express our support for SB 1153. COIN is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups, spanning all regions of Oregon, that cooperate and amplify their efforts to advance federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes that benefit all Oregonians.

**We strongly support SB 1153.**

New water rights applications to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) must demonstrate they will not impair public interest; however, applications to change existing water rights, known as transfers, can be made without consideration of public interest and environmental harm.

Transfer laws in Oregon are currently silent on the topic of public interest, which is a dangerous loophole that hampers the state's ability to protect instream values on hundreds of Oregon's streams. SB 1153 takes an essential step toward closing this current transfer loophole.

SB 1153 upholds the principles of water equity and water fairness that the good people of Oregon have been working hard to address. It directs the OWRD to ensure that water right transfers do not harm water quality or result in loss of habitat for sensitive, threatened and endangered aquatic species. **These public values – high water quality and healthy habitat -- are fundamental to the welfare of all Oregonians.** In addition, the bill directs the OWRD to include tribes in the review of certain water rights transfer applications.

Companion bill SB 427 directs the OWRD to ensure that water rights transfers will not harm diminishment of stream flows. The two bills -- SB 1153 and SB 427 -- provide vital complementary paths to address the current water rights transfer loophole. Furthermore, these two bills are well-conceived alternatives to HB 3501 which would prohibit the OWRD from considering whether existing water rights transfers are detrimental to public interest at all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Patricia Kramer, Portland  
on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network  
[www.coinoregon.org](http://www.coinoregon.org)