



## **Statement of the Oregon Land and Land and Water Alliance re: SB 1153**

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, Oregon. I am the Vice 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 these bills on behalf of OLAWA and its Board of Directors.

OLAWA enthusiastically supports SB 1153.

SB 1153 corrects an existing oversight in our laws authorizing the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to manage the publicly owned waters of Oregon on behalf of all Oregonians. Water rights transfers from one landowner to another are supervised and must be approved by OWRD. But OWRD has no specific authorization under existing law to consider whether the change would be detrimental to the welfare of Oregon's fish and wildlife, or even to the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of this state.

This change in the law is long overdue!

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

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