

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

I support Senate Bill 1153.

For far too long, an outdated loophole in Oregon law has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm fish and wildlife or water quality.

Is is an incomprehensible loophole that OWRD would employ to do harm to a waterway! As a professional in the health industry, I had to take an oath to “First Do No Harm”. Why would an organization vested in the health of a stream or river which supplies water to the public, wildlife, and fish, wish to harm this life giving natural resource ?

Senate Bill 1153 ensures that fish and wildlife and water quality will be protected in water right transfers. This fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.

I urge you to support SB 1153.