

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of SB 1153. I am a land owner of over forty years in Baker County, where a quarter mile long reach of East Pine Creek flows year round through our property.

I am a water user, receiving irrigation water from Five Point Ditch, with its diversion on East Pine Creek; I also serve as Vice President of our ditch company, am a member of the Pine Valley Irrigators Association, and volunteer water quality monitoring services in Pine Valley for the Powder Basin Watershed Council.

Before retiring from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2008, I extensively assisted Oregon Water Resources Department modernize their water rights transfer processes.

In sum, I am highly familiar with water rights transfers and their potential benefits to both water users and to aquatic and riparian habitats.

It is my considered opinion that it is irresponsible for the State of Oregon to allow any environmental harm to our waterways when a transfer occurs in point of diversion or place of use, especially where in stream flow water rights are absent or water quality is further impaired in water quality limited streams.

Please pass SB 1153 into law and close the loophole that would allow such degradation.

Thank you,
Mike Beaty
Halfway, Oregon