

Submitter: Herb Blank
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,

I support Senate Bill 1153.

I have lived in Central Oregon for 25 years and have seen huge progress in efforts to improve habitat for native fish and improve flows in our beloved streams and rivers. This loophole is a glaring error in our water legislation.

For far too long, an outdated loophole in Oregon law has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of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.

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 This fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process.

As an avid angler and environmentalist I urge you to support SB 1153.

Sincerely, Herb Blank