

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

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 1153, which would severely restrict water right transfers in Oregon. While the intent is to protect environmental resources, this bill would harm Oregon's agricultural community and create unnecessary barriers to effective water management.

SB 1153 would limit flexibility by imposing vague environmental assessments on water right transfers, creating delays and increasing litigation risk. Existing regulations already provide adequate protections for water quality and aquatic habitats. Moreover, this bill places an unfair burden on water users to prove their transfers won't cause harm, which is difficult to demonstrate and disrupts a fair process.

The ability to transfer water rights is crucial for Oregon farmers, who rely on the dependability of their water rights to sustain crops and support local economies. SB 1153 would undermine this flexibility and hurt agricultural operations.

I urge you to reject SB 1153 and support House Bill 3501, which offers a more balanced solution that addresses both environmental concerns and the needs of water users.

Thank you for your consideration.