



Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to SB 1153. For background, Oregon REALTORS® is an industry association comprised of roughly 18,000 members who work as real estate brokers, principal real estate brokers, real estate property managers, and affiliated industry professionals. In turn, our members represent hundreds of thousands of Oregonians in real property transactions across Oregon.

SB 1153 creates incredibly broad standards that could have serious negative consequences on water right transfers in the state of Oregon, including changes in the point of diversion by municipal water providers serving hundreds of thousands of Oregonians. Oregon law and rule already prevents the transfer of a water right if the transfer would (i) enlarge an existing water right or (ii) injure any other existing water right on the water system.

Adding nebulous criteria of not “contribut[ing] to water quality impairment” or “result[ing] in a loss of in-stream habitat” will only result in confusion, disputes, and delays in the ability of Oregon’s water providers to meet their regulatory requirements and the needs of their communities to provide clean, safe and reliable water to Oregon communities.

We strongly urge you to reject this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.