

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

We are in OPPOSITION of SB 1153. As a farm that produces many food crops, which require frequent irrigation applications because most of these crops are spring planted and grown through the summer months where we have no rain; we need to be able to manage our irrigation efficiently with intense flexibility. We cannot afford to be more regulated, or food production for Oregon is at risk.

This bill threatens Oregonian's ability to manage water efficiently and responsibly. It ignores existing public review requirements currently required in OWRD's water rights transfer process. By adding more layers of bureaucratic review, the bill would have a chilling effect on the efficient use of water throughout our state through the threat of litigation from activist third parties.

This bill would severely restrict water users' ability to adapt to changing conditions by imposing vague and broad environmental assessments. SB 1153 would also open the door to years-long delays and costly litigation from third parties without improving environmental protections. SB 1153 adds new, duplicative standards to a process already governed by strict anti-injury and anti-enlargement rules.

Please oppose this bill.