



March 25, 2025

Honorable Chair Golden
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1153, a bill that proposes significant changes to water rights transfers in Oregon. The City of Tigard opposes the bill as currently written due to its potential negative impacts on drinking water providers. As stewards of vital municipal services, we are concerned that this bill could introduce unnecessary delays in critical water infrastructure projects due to additional regulatory layers.

Tigard is fortunate to have an Aquifer Storage and Recovery program as part of its water supply system. This legislation has the potential to negatively impact the water rights used by the City of Tigard to supply water for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery program, which has allowed the City to reduce its demand for summertime supply from surface water sources and has contributed to the recovery of groundwater levels in the Cooper-Bull Mountain Critical Groundwater Area.

SB 1153 will hinder our community's ability to efficiently manage and expand essential water services, impacting everything from residential water supply to schools. Additionally, this legislation may impact our efforts to increase housing availability, a critical issue for both the City of Tigard and communities across Oregon. The existing regulatory framework on municipal governments already ensures the responsible management of our water resources, with a strong emphasis on conservation and compliance with environmental standards.

We believe that the goals of SB 1153, while well-intentioned, could be better achieved through a collaborative approach. We respectfully request the formation of a workgroup to discuss amendments to the bill. Should the Governor's Office or this committee decide to move forward with this issue, it is crucial that representatives from municipal water providers are included.

The City of Tigard is committed to maintaining the highest standards of water conservation and environmental protection. We are prepared to engage in meaningful dialogue and share our expertise to shape the bill in a way that truly reflects the operational challenges municipal water systems like ours face every day.

Sincerely,

Mayor Heidi Lueb