

Submitter: Ilene Vargas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1154

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

My name is Ilene, and I live in Medford, OR and I support SB 1154 to fix Oregon's broken groundwater pollution laws.

We need SB 1154 to fix the broken Groundwater Quality Protection Act of 1989. That law has failed, and because of that failure groundwater pollution continues to get worse in our most vulnerable communities and fuel public health crises in places like the Lower Umatilla Basin. It has allowed billion-dollar corporations to pollute more and more for the sake of profit, it has failed to give agencies the tools they need to enforce the law, and it has failed to hold agencies accountable when they fail to enforce the law and protect at-risk Oregonians.

Oregon needs to fix our groundwater protection laws. SB 1154 needs to give Oregon's agencies the tools they need to hold polluters accountable for the damage they've done to Oregonian communities, it needs to hold agencies accountable for failing to use those tools to stop polluters, and it needs to once again make Oregon a leader on environmental justice.

SB 1154 still has a long way to go, but the longer we wait, the more damage is done to Oregonian communities. Please support SB 1154 and keep the discussion going so that we can finally fix this broken law and hold polluters accountable.

Sincerely,
Ilene Vargas
Medford, OR 97504