

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

I am writing as a private landowner and well owner in Oregon to express my strong opposition to SB 1154. This bill represents a troubling instance of government overreach and raises serious constitutional concerns regarding property rights and due process.

As written, SB 1154 would allow the state to restrict or even deny the use of private wells—wells that were legally drilled and have long been a critical part of rural life and livelihood in Oregon. The ability to access water from one's own land is a fundamental right. Allowing the state to override that right without proper compensation or clear justification threatens the constitutional protections afforded to landowners under both the Oregon and United States Constitutions.

This bill not only undermines trust between the government and citizens, but it sets a dangerous precedent that could erode private property rights more broadly. Responsible stewardship of water resources is essential, but it must be approached in partnership with landowners, not through punitive and overreaching legislation.

I urge you to oppose SB 1154 and instead advocate for solutions that protect Oregon's water while respecting the rights and responsibilities of those who care for the land every day.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Wisner