

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

I oppose SB1154 and any similar legislation that would impose new fees, metering requirements, or state control over private wells and well drilling. As this is a HUGE overreach of government. For the state of Oregon to try and step in to manage our water and monitor or charge for water is unlawful based on property ownership rights and will be taken to court. If you want to manage water, do a better job of managing the city water services to provide safe water.

A nearly identical bill—HB3419—was recently introduced in the House but was withdrawn after widespread public opposition. It is deeply disappointing to see such proposals resurfacing in the Senate. Every family that has a well has invested tens of thousands of dollars to bring safe, reliable well water to their homes. Like many rural Oregonians, we are not connected to a municipal water supply and rely entirely on OUR well for daily living.

These costs are borne entirely by homeowners and farmers, not the State. To now add fees or impose state controls on these privately funded water sources is both unjust and unnecessary. While I understand the importance of safeguarding Oregon's water resources, placing additional burdens on rural residents who have already shouldered the cost of access to water is not the solution. These measures risk creating undue financial and regulatory hardship for families and small farms throughout our region. Please keep a close eye on these water bills and strongly oppose SB1154 and any other efforts that seek to increase government oversight or costs associated with private wells. I urge you to stand with your constituents and protect our rights to maintain access to the water sources we have responsibly developed and maintained.