



Statement of the Oregon Land and Water Alliance in support of SB 1154

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, Oregon. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use, as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in support of SB 1154 on behalf of OLAWA and its Board of Directors.

OLAWA supports SB 1154 because safe, unpolluted drinking water is a fundamental public health issue, and it also affects the health of our environment. But Oregon still does not have an adequate and effective water quality management program to ensure our drinking water remains safe for human consumption throughout our State. Many Oregon residents rely on private or public groundwater wells for drinking water, but the ongoing safety of most of these water wells is not adequately tested or regulated.

Currently, several different state agencies share responsibilities for the testing, regulation, and safety of both private home-based wells and municipal and quasi municipal wells for cities, subdivisions, and other residential groups both large and small. But there has often been too little coordination and accountability among state agencies to ensure that both our groundwater and our surface waters are safe for human consumption and other domestic water uses, as well as for our fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Please vote to approve SB 1154 as a priority for this legislative session.

Paul Lipscomb

PO Box 579

Sisters, OR 97759

Judgelipscomb@gmail.com