

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

OPPOSE!!!

Oregon Constitution

Article I – Bill of Rights

Section 33 – Enumeration of Rights Not Exclusive:

“This enumeration of rights, and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”

In light of such legislative attempts to meter and regulate domestic wells under the pretense of “research,” it’s important to remember that the Oregon Constitution—our state’s highest legal authority—protects not only the rights that are written down, but also those retained by the people.

Article I, Section 33 of the Oregon Bill of Rights explicitly states:

“This enumeration of rights, and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”

That means our rights are not limited to what’s listed in the Constitution—and it absolutely covers long-standing, inherited rights to manage our own water, draw from our own land, and live free from unjust surveillance or taxation or fees masquerading as data collection.

Any bill that seeks to force private property owners to install water meters, pay fees, or surrender usage information—without compelling need, without due process, and without direct voter approval—is not just bureaucratic overreach, it may be unconstitutional under the very document the legislature is sworn to uphold.

We’re not asking for permission to access our own water.

That right is not to negotiate!