



April 7, 2025

RE: COIN Testimony in Support of SB 1154

Chair Golden, Co-Chair Nash, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire, Senators Prozanski, Girod, and Taylor:

We are writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to ask you to pass SB 1154 to improve Oregon's Groundwater Quality Management Act of 1989 that has abysmally failed the people living in Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs).

COIN is made up of Indivisible groups across Oregon and has its own Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team. COIN's CEE Team collaborates with organizations, agencies, and groups across the Pacific Northwest to advocate, in part, for laws and programs that promote and protect our natural world and resources including our water. Our members include and we work with folks and communities where water supplies are contaminated by industrial pollution and development.

While SB 1154 is limited in its authority, it could be helpful in these respects for groundwater quality concern areas:

- 1) Brings together expertise and support from across several agencies;
- 2) Requires an assessment that must "identify local, residential, industrial, and agricultural practices that contribute to groundwater deterioration", "potential nonpoint source threats, and ...both agency and local actions to address the contamination";
- 3) Requires the design and implementation of a groundwater monitoring strategy and collection of relevant data and promotion of best practices to "better understand and address" contamination sources;
- 4) Requires ODA to prioritize watersheds and sub-watersheds, collect data on nutrient application and ground water contaminants in the area, and require permitted operations to provide contamination data;

- 5) Requires OHA to identify risks to domestic well users and public water systems from contamination and at least evaluate possible response strategies.

The bill could also be helpful in these respects for groundwater management areas:

- 1) Requires development of action plans for groundwater management areas that must be submitted to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with funding requests and follow up progress reports;
- 2) Requires ODA to set limits on groundwater contaminants and authorizes ODA to enter private property to sample and collect data regarding soil contamination;
- 3) Requires OHA to conduct an assessment and develop and implement a public health and remediation response plan that identifies risks to domestic well users and public water systems from contamination;
- 4) Gives DEQ more leeway in managing water quality permits.

SB 1154 will at least provide agencies with more tools to identify sources of groundwater contamination and take steps to try to remediate the danger to public health in local communities and the pollution of our water and other natural resources.

Thank you.

Laura Allen on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN