

Submitter:	Jessica Phares-Cunningham
On Behalf Of:	Self and Community
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1154

Testimony on SB1154 – Neutral Unless Amended

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this testimony as neutral unless amended, with serious concerns about clarity, implementation equity, and the potential financial impact on individual well users and low-income residents.

My intent is to participate in good faith as a resident with lived experience, not as a legal authority or organizational representative. My comments reflect concerns based on currently available public bill language as of April 7, 2025.

Key concerns with SB1154:

Lack of fiscal clarity: No public-facing cost estimate has been provided. History shows that when the state implements regulatory changes without funding structures, the financial burden often shifts to local agencies or residents through new utility fees or service surcharges. This needs to be addressed upfront.

Private well protection: The bill's language around "inspection authority" and groundwater management is broad. I urge you to include specific protections for individual well owners to ensure their access and privacy rights are not violated without due process.

Transparency in remediation planning: If agencies are granted power to require remediation plans, the process and criteria should be made transparent and include accessible appeal options for individuals or small property owners.

Suggested amendment language:

Include language that exempts small-scale, domestic-use well owners from large-scale regulation frameworks.

Require fiscal impact reporting before implementation phases begin.

Add clear due process procedures for inspection, denial of well rights, or water access changes.

Please do not interpret this testimony as support for deregulation or environmental neglect. My focus is balanced policy that protects both community rights and ecological health.

Thank you for your time and public service.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessy Phares-Cunningham
Newberg, OR
Testifying on behalf of self and community
Neutral unless amended
April 7, 2025