

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

My testimony is in opposition of SB 1154, which will have disastrous consequences to Oregonians.

OWRD has been underfunded for years and hasn't had the ability or resources to enforce existing water laws. I retired from the OPUC having worked in water and rate regulation for over 10 years. My tenure there focused on service quality issues in both Telecom and Water.

Instead of adopting more laws, why not start by enforcing our existing water laws? This would help determine whether there are issues that require changes or modifications to Oregon laws in a thoughtful manner. Instead, proposals in SB 1154 reflect a gerrymandered power land grab by special interest groups that neither represent nor care about Oregonians or their welfare. If Oregon has issues, why not begin by enforcing our existing water laws? Fund OWRD so that they can enforce existing laws.

SB 1154 proposes that rural Oregonians be served by small rural systems. What systems? Rural systems don't exist in areas where people use wells. As there are no more water rights being granted this will leave the majority of existing homes currently served by wells without water as new systems can't be developed without water rights. It also fails to address the prohibitive cost and complexities of such rural systems, which is why they don't exist. Cities are struggling with high rates due to the consequences of toxic bloom outbreaks. Imagine the cost of sparsely populated labor intensive rural systems. This bill is a catastrophic disaster. The proposed rural systems in this bill is wildly impractical; it's a disingenuous ploy to make it appear that water may be available once rights are stripped away.

SB 1154 proposes to take existing rights and personal property away from Oregonians who own rural homes and will prohibit/limit building outside of cities. What about the decimation of property values when this occurs?

SB 1154 is an attempt to force everyone to live in cities like China. This bill will bankrupt farmers and ranchers and will more than likely be fought in the courts for years. It is designed to eliminate Oregonian's rights and ability to live in rural areas. It takes away personal property without just compensation.

SB 1154 will negatively affect ALL Oregonians with higher food and utility costs. No

more farmers markets or affordable fresh locally grown food.

SB 1154 reflects government overreach and ignorance at its very worst. Please reject this bill.

Malia Brock  
Crabtree, OR 97335