

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

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 1154, which would significantly change Oregon's groundwater management.

At its core, SB 1154 represents an unprecedented assault on Oregonians' property rights. Water rights in Oregon have long been recognized as a form of property right—a principle established in both law and tradition. This bill threatens to undermine these fundamental rights without just compensation, due process, or meaningful recourse.

The Oregon Constitution and our state's heritage recognize that property rights are not merely legal technicalities but the foundation of economic liberty, personal autonomy, and rural livelihoods. When government can restrict, modify, or effectively negate these rights without clear statutory limitations or compensation requirements, we have abandoned a core principle that has guided our state since its founding.

I ask this committee to stand as guardians of these essential property rights by rejecting SB 1154. The path to effective groundwater management lies not in bureaucratic overreach and erosion of constitutional protections, but in collaborative approaches that respect both our environmental needs and the sacred property rights that generations of Oregonians have depended upon.