



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

April 8, 2025

To: Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Kelly Campbell and I am the policy director at Columbia Riverkeeper. Columbia Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization with a mission to restore and protect the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 25,000 supporters and members in Oregon.

Columbia Riverkeeper supports SB 1154 as a vehicle to correct Oregon's broken groundwater pollution laws because we all deserve to have clean water to drink.

The Groundwater Quality Protection Act of 1989 has failed miserably. Since its passage, groundwater pollution has continued to worsen in places like the Lower Umatilla Basin, adjacent to the Columbia River. It is past time to fix this law.

The current law allows huge corporations to pollute with impunity, while vulnerable community members pay the price with their bodies—suffering severe health conditions like gastrointestinal cancers, thyroid problems, birth defects, and more. This is not acceptable.

We need SB 1154 to ensure that agencies have the tools they need to make sure the law is enforced, and to hold agencies accountable when they do not enforce the law.

We need SB 1154 to hold polluters accountable for the devastation they have caused to human health and our drinking water, and our environment.

While the current version of SB 1154 does not yet adequately address these problems, we support it as a vehicle to keep the conversation going about fixing our broken laws and prioritizing safe drinking water over corporate profits.

On a personal note, I went to college in Iowa in a town where the water was so polluted with nitrates from industrial agriculture, that vulnerable populations were advised to not

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drink the municipal water at certain times of the year. As a college student on a budget, I remember having to consider whether I could afford to buy bottled water, or take chances with my own health by drinking and cooking with what came out of the tap. No one should have to make these choices.

Vote yes on SB 1154 for clean water for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Campbell". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and legible.

Kelly Campbell, Policy Director