

Submitter: Amy van Saun  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1154

Senator Golden and members of the Committee:

Center for Food Safety, on behalf of its thousands of Oregon members, supports this bill because Oregon needs updates to our groundwater quality protection laws. As Senator Golden stated during the public hearing on SB 80 on April 3, the public health crisis of contaminated drinking water in our GWMA's, especially the LUB GWMA, needs real solutions and long-term fixes. We hope then that this committee will see that the proposed updates in SB 1154 will go a long way towards making those changes. Our fresh water is not only dwindling but it is becoming more polluted and we know the reasons. We need our state representatives to stand up and protect this crucial human right--to safe drinking water--because we cannot rely on the federal government as a back stop any longer. Importantly, this bill will help prevent future GWMA designations, allowing the state to be more proactive before the crisis happens.

I urge the committee to look past the misrepresentations by certain interested parties and legislators who should know better and the fear they have stoked regarding installation of monitoring devices on exempt wells, which the bill does not mandate. All Oregonians, including those opposed to this bill, deserve access to clean drinking water, and as a basic human need, this should be prioritized.

Every day that families in the LUB GWMA and other GWMA's drink contaminated water is shameful. As a state, we should be better than this. We have known about this problem for decades and passing the buck to future years is simply not good enough.

I urge you to vote SB 1154 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,  
Amy van Saun