

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

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed bill SB1154 that would strip homeowners of their well rights and mandate metering of private wells. This legislation represents an unjust overreach by the government, undermining property rights, imposing unnecessary burdens, and disproportionately targeting rural residents who rely on wells for their livelihood and basic needs. Wells that the homeowners pays to install and maintain at their own expense.

Private wells are a cornerstone of independence for homeowners, especially in areas where municipal water systems are unavailable or unreliable. Forcing meters onto these wells erodes a fundamental right to use resources tied to one's own land—a right that predates modern regulation and is rooted in common-sense ownership. The government has no business dictating how much water a family draws from their own property to drink, bathe, or irrigate their gardens. This isn't about conservation; it's about control.

The financial burden of installing and maintaining meters, along with potential usage fees, unfairly penalizes those least able to afford it—rural and low-income households. Meanwhile, large corporations, like industrial farms or data centers, often escape scrutiny despite guzzling billions of gallons from public waterways. Why target the little guy while letting the big players off the hook? It's a classic case of misdirected priorities.

Proponents may claim this protects groundwater, but where's the evidence that small-scale residential use is the problem? Without transparent data showing widespread abuse by homeowners, this bill feels like a solution in search of a problem. Conservation efforts should start with accountability for major polluters, not punishing families for living off their land.

I urge you to reject this bill and preserve homeowners' well rights. Metering private wells is an invasive, inequitable step toward centralized control that rural communities cannot—and should not—tolerate. Let's focus on real threats to our water, not scapegoat everyday people.

Sincerely, S. Hunter