

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

I oppose this bill. Oregon does not have authority to access my property to attach a device on my well. I paid for that well to be drilled the state of Oregon did not. Oregon has 350,000 private wells serving approximately 400,000 residents. The cost of implementing and monitoring these devices would be over 100 million to start. The monitoring and maintenance would be millions per year and for what? They are not providing me any service with this flawed and intrusive government oversight and overreach. Will the state turn off my water because I used extra water for my garden on a hot summer day? Will the state provide 24 hour response for a failed device? If the monitoring device fails will it shut off my water? Will my horses, cows, chickens, goats die because the state turned off my water or the device failed.

Each of us 350,000 private well owners have an implied water right by drilling the well on our private property. The state has no authority to control my private property. The owner of each of these private wells applied for a drilling permit and followed all the requirements to have our wells dug/drilled. That permit did not indicate nor mention that the state of Oregon has any jurisdiction over my private well.

This bill is a manipulation of land owners rights and taxation of water that is freely provided by nature and god. I strongly oppose this bill.