

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1154

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Date: 4/8/25

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Cody Conner, and I am a resident of Glendale in Douglas County. I am writing to express my **strong opposition to Senate Bill 1154**, which would give the state expanded authority over private wells and potentially restrict future well development across Oregon.

While I fully support efforts to protect our groundwater, **this bill goes too far**. It creates broad powers for state agencies to:

- Declare entire regions as “groundwater quality concern areas,”
- Deny new well permits,
- Restrict residential development unless connected to public water systems,
- And even **enter private property to inspect septic systems**—all with very little local control or individual recourse.

For many Oregonians, especially those in rural and agricultural areas, private wells are not a luxury—they are a necessity. We already bear the cost of drilling, maintaining, and testing our wells. This bill opens the door to **government control over water we’ve historically managed responsibly** on our own land.

I am particularly concerned about the **precedent** this sets:

- It **erodes property rights**, allowing the state to interfere with how we access and use water on our land.
- It enables **mandatory actions** and regulatory burdens that could be expensive and difficult for individuals to comply with.
- It creates the potential for **fees, permits, and inspections** on private water use—costs that may be passed on without compensation or support.

SB 1154 is a sweeping bill that, while well-intentioned, **overreaches** and places an unfair burden on homeowners and landowners. Groundwater protection is important—but it should be pursued through collaboration, education, and voluntary local solutions, **not by handing over sweeping control to unelected agencies**.

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on Senate Bill 1154. Protect our rights, our water, and our way of life.

Sincerely,
Cody Conner
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