

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my deep and personal opposition to Senate Bill 1154.

I am part of a lower income household, and I help care for my husband, who has disability's . We live in a rural area, and our only access to water is through a private well. We do not have the financial means to move, and we rely on this well for everything — drinking, bathing, cooking, and basic quality of life. This bill feels like a direct threat to our ability to survive in our home.

If SB 1154 passes, we could be forced to pay tens of thousands of dollars to repair or abandon our well — something we simply cannot afford. These are not optional or cosmetic changes — they are potentially life-altering costs being imposed on families like mine without any offer of financial help or real alternatives.

Even more troubling is the language in the bill that would allow the government or state agencies to come onto our property without our consent. That strips away a basic freedom that we've always believed we had — the right to feel safe and secure on our own land. For a family already living with disability and limited income, that level of intrusion is not just unfair — it's terrifying.

We are doing our best to live responsibly, use our water carefully, and take care of our home. This bill punishes people like us, who are simply trying to hold on in an already fragile situation.

Please do not pass this bill. It would place an unbearable burden on the most vulnerable Oregonians, with no clear plan to support them through it. We need thoughtful, compassionate solutions — not mandates that risk pushing families out of their homes.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Bernhardt