

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

I am writing as a concerned resident of Oregon to urge you to oppose SB1154 and any similar legislation that would impose new fees, metering requirements, or state control over private wells and well drilling. A nearly identical bill—HB3419—was recently introduced in the House but was withdrawn after widespread public opposition. It is deeply disappointing to see such proposals resurfacing in the Senate. My family and I have personally invested tens of thousands of dollars to bring safe, reliable well water to our home. Like many rural Oregonians, we are not connected to a municipal water supply and rely entirely on our well for daily living. These costs are borne entirely by homeowners and farmers, not the State. To now add fees or impose state controls on these privately funded water sources is both unjust and unnecessary. It's also government overreach and clear violation of my families rights as citizens of the United States.

While I understand the importance of safeguarding Oregon's water resources, placing additional burdens on rural residents who have already shouldered the cost of access to water is not the solution. These measures risk creating undue financial and regulatory hardship for families and small farms throughout our region. My wife and I are Licensed Clinical Social Workers and we are not rich people. We live on a budget and worked hard for many years to buy the dream property that we now own. Having to shoulder the costs of these new requirements will most certainly make it difficult for my family to continue to afford the property we live on. Today I keep you in mind when I think about the slogan: "Hands off" my property!