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

## Opposition to Senate Bill 1154

Senate Bill 1154, as presented, fails to address critical environmental and property rights issues in Oregon, while expanding state authority in ways that harm private landowners and agricultural producers. We oppose this legislation and demand a more balanced approach that prioritizes clean water, individual liberty, and agricultural autonomy. Our objections and proposed alternatives are as follows:

**\*Ban Aerial Chemical Spraying for Weather Modification.** Aerial chemical spraying for weather modification poses an unacceptable risk to water quality, contaminating streams, wells, and soil relied upon by farmers and residents. Evidence of chemical residues in soil and water sources has raised alarm among communities, threatening both human health and crop integrity. We call for an immediate and total ban on this practice in Oregon. The state must not permit activities that jeopardize our natural resources under the pretext of climate control; this bill completely ignores this is occurring.

### **\*Mandate Water Filtration Systems by Water Users**

Rather than allowing contamination to persist unchecked, we propose a practical solution: require all water users—whether agricultural, industrial, or residential—to install and maintain water filtration systems. This decentralized approach places responsibility on users to ensure their water meets safety standards, protecting public health without burdening taxpayers or expanding state bureaucracy. Filtration systems must be tailored to remove known contaminants, including any residual chemicals from past spraying activities.

### **\*Prohibit State Entry onto Private Lands**

SB 1154's apparent authorization of state access to private property is a direct violation of individual rights. No state official should be permitted to enter private lands without the owner's explicit consent or a court-issued warrant based on clear evidence of harm. This protection is non-negotiable—landowners must retain sovereignty over their property, free from unwarranted intrusion.

### **\*Prevent State Control of Agricultural Water Use**

The bill's potential to regulate water use for farms and crops undermines the expertise of farmers who have sustainably managed these resources for generations. Centralized state control over irrigation and crop watering is a recipe for inefficiency

and economic ruin. We demand that farmers retain full authority over their water use, ensuring that agricultural production remains viable and independent.

#### Economic and Environmental Stakes

A ban on weather modification aerial spraying paired with mandatory filtration systems safeguards Oregon's environment while preserving its agricultural economy. Farmers cannot afford crop losses from contaminated water, nor can rural communities bear the cost of health crises linked to polluted supplies.

SB 1154, as it stands, ignores these realities and risks destabilizing the very foundation of our state.

#### Proposed Action

We urge the legislature to reject SB 1154 and adopt a revised policy that:

- \*Enacts a complete ban on aerial chemical spraying for weather modification in Oregon.
- \*Requires all water users to install filtration systems to mitigate contamination at their expense, with standards set by independent scientific review.
- \*Explicitly prohibits state entry onto private lands without consent or judicial oversight.
- \*Ensures farmers and agricultural producers maintain unrestricted control over their water use for crops and livestock.

In summary, SB 1154 is a misguided attempt at regulation that fails to protect our water, land, and people. We demand a policy that bans harmful weather modification spraying, empowers water users to filter their own supply without taxing citizens not affected by contaminants, and respects the rights of private landowners and farmers.

Oregon deserves better from its legislators!