

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Submitter: | CJ Nugent |
| On Behalf Of: | OREGON WATER UNITY AND SELF |
| Committee: | Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | SB1154 |

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the committee, You will all want to read this...PART 1

Thank you for your time to hear my testimony on SB 1154 Yesterday.

Since I wasn't able to get my entire testimony done in 2 minutes, I will review with you all the very serious problems I see with the bill as currently amended.

1. The ability to walk on people's property without due cause to do ANYTHING is a violation of the US constitution's 4th amendment rights. This should be voluntary only. If Oregon residences do not want government officials to come onto their property, not matter the reason, they should have due process and the ability to say "no" ...always!

2. I have never nor will I ever condone people drinking contaminated water. There is treatment available for these situations. In many countries, water quality is so poor it must be ran through RO systems. (Reverse Osmosis) Many bottled water companies use this method. While expensive yes...it is very much possible.

Many people use point of use RO systems, which is significantly cheaper than a whole house RO system. Again not ideal, and I absolutely agree that we as citizens should do everything in our power to try and remedy the situation. That said again...without giving up our constitutional rights.

3. Everything in this bill that will require backflow valves, abandonment of old wells, septic systems, and other things. There is ZERO subsidization as amended for these people. I have been told that they will not be bringing forward the abandonment of comingling wells section of this bill, and I will hold legislators to that. I am NOT in favor of these wells. That said, without just subsidization, this could cost homeowners 20-60,000\$ or more!

Same goes for septic systems. If a septic has failed, there is no compensation for these fixes.

4. This bill does not just limit these areas to Nitrates, It could be intrepreted by state agencies, to cover other contaminations as well. (arsenic, TDS, Minerals, Iron, Bacteria, and others). This is dangerous because other areas of the state have their own issues. Again, this is where water treatment comes into play.

5. THIS BILL SHOULD NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH GALLONS PER MINUTE. There should be ZERO language on water quantity in this bill. This is about

contamination ONLY and should focus on just that.

6. As a driller that has drilled over 1,000 wells, and my father who has drilled over 4,000 wells in Oregon, I can confidently say that many times, and actually most of the time when nitrates are present at high numbers, it is from a few things in the well construction which I will list below:

- a. Old wells with failed surface seals or rotted out casing.
- b. Wells that were not sealed properly to begin with, or not sealed deep enough.
- c. Improper care of a sanitary seal on the wellhead and a protective vent.
- d. Wells that are extremely shallow with little to no surface seal present.
- e. Wells that are sealed into alluvial formations (sands, gravels, silts, clays, and others), but the water bearing zones are in Consolidated formations (Sandstone, Claystone, Basalt, Granite, and others)

E. Illegally drilled wells that were bootlegged in to begin with some using thin wall casing, NO surface seal, Driven wells, and dug wells, shallow cased wells, and poor welds causing cascading/comingling of upper contaminated water.

MANY MANY times, I have drilled a new well sometimes even right next to these old nitrate wells (due to small property size), and have gotten clean tests with little to no Nitrate problems. (I do try to abandon all of the old contaminated wells whenever I can)

This is where industry can be of huge help to this...Drillers all over the state deal with these and similar issues everyday. We have the tools and the knowledge to fix them and/or drill a new well that can alleviate the issues all together.

I will do a second part of this testimony...

CJ Nugent-Nugent Drilling company..