

Thank you for reading this testimony and your time. I am a farmer in Eastern Oregon and have a unique outlook growing up on a farm in the Willamette Valley. I have been able to experience farming and living on both sides of the state. Many people in the Willamette Valley corridor don't realize that there is another side to the state and the entire state doesn't look like the lush green landscape of the Valley. Farming is different east of the Cascades as well. Water is truly the lifeblood for everything we do in the desert. We have an average rainfall of 9-11 inches per year and measures have been taken in the past to contain the rain and snowfall in reservoirs for irrigation water so we can farm the very fertile ground of the desert, water our livestock, and recharge our aquifers with the series of canals and ditches feeding our farm ground. To sustain human life we rely heavily on well water on the other hand. HB 1154 is a very complex bill with a lot of parts that are over-reaching and will harm ALL Oregonians no matter where you live, in rural Oregon or in town, or what kind of job you have. First and foremost, the ability for a government official to walk on private property without warning or permission is a violation of the constitution's 4th amendment rights. No matter the reason, no one should be allowed on private property and the landowner should have the ability to say "no!"

The second largest issue with this bill is not allowing new building permits for landowners unless they can hook up to city water. Rural Oregon is NOT the suburbs of Portland and Salem. Rural Oregon is land parcels not by a town. Rural Oregon is where I live, on a gravel road, with very few neighbors surrounded by farmland and livestock. We do NOT have access to city water, nor do I want treated city water. I do not want chloride and chemicals in my drinking water and I don't want neighbors out my backdoor. There are many reasons why people move out of the suburbs and into the country, but not allowing people to build a house on THEIR property is a restriction that should not be included in this bill for any reason.

Coming from Western Oregon, where we had good, reliable, and safe drinking water to Northern Malheur County where there are multiple areas with high arsenic and hard minerals in the water made me worried about our own drinking water. However, after monitoring our well water and having it tested we are in the clear. Yes, some people around us aren't so lucky, but most people have a filtration system in their house to mitigate the problem or they choose to buy bottled water. As a result residents have good, clean drinking water at their disposal. Each area of the state has their own issues with water contaminants, BUT it should not be up to a state official to determine where someone builds their house. Nor should it be up to the state to make interpretations of what a contaminate is, there are water treatments that help with water quality for potable use.

There should not be any language in any bill that has anything to do with gallons per minute. I know the wells in the Willamette Valley can pump an exorbitant amount of water, where some wells in Eastern Oregon pump 2 gallons per minutes, drops compared to other wells. Yes it is a problem for some when you have a sprinkler going in the yard and you want to take a shower, but we as rural Oregonians make things work and life goes on. There is no need for a gallons per minute clause in any bill, which in my mind will lead to water meters, which are unnecessary, unconstitutional, and a violation of my privacy on my private property. This also goes for the wordage of restrictions of gallons per day usage. This is a slippery slope and, in my opinion, will lead to water meters for the entire state and all of the fees, charges, and cost for implementation that goes along with that.

Going forward I would recommend getting industry professionals involved for technical assistance from REPUTABLE well constructors, water treatment specialists, and septic professionals and bring something constructive to the table that will benefit Oregonians and not hinder them every step of the way. Stay away from any language that would alter property rights, septic rights, well rights, and other rights. Private property is just that and without permission anyone on my property is trespassing and I will exercise the full extent of the law if they are caught.

I FIRMLY oppose this as this bill is written. HB1154 is poorly written and poorly thought out. This will hinder the growth of Oregon and ALL of its constituents. Many items in this bill overstep the state's jurisdiction and will lead to problems in the future. This bill should die in committee.

Thank you for your time.