

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

I'm writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1154.

This bill is a clear violation of our constitutional rights. Section 9 of the Oregon Constitution protects us from unreasonable search and seizure. Forcing well owners to allow agents of the government onto our property without probable cause to run tests, that can shut down our water is government overreach, plain and simple.

This sets a dangerous precedent. We know, even if the words were removed from this bill, is that the end goal is to install water flow meters so government can monitor how much water we use so that they can control or seize it. Don't create problems where none may exist. Fix the problems where they are at, within those local communities.

Most well owners are producers—farmers and ranchers who feed their communities. We already pay for our water, via wells, repairs, and maintenance. More regulations and oversight will only push small farms out and open the door for big business to take over.

If a bill like this is being pushed quietly, with little public knowledge, it raises red flags. If legislators feel the need to pass something in the dark, it's probably not good for the people.

Water is sacred—it's life. We're responsible stewards of the land. We don't need the government treating us like criminals for using our own water.

If you have solutions on how to fix the high nitrate and contamination problems, give that knowledge to the people, and I promise that we, the stewards of our own lands, will do what we can to make improvements. And at the same time, if the government really cares about water quality, it needs to make changes too. It needs have a zero tolerance for cities continually dumping raw untreated sewage into our river systems while using tax payer money to pay the fines for doing so. It needs to stop spraying our county road ditches with roundup, as that feeds into the waterways as well. Government needs to be the change first.

Please vote no on SB 1154. Thank you.