

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of SB 1153.

Introduction: Senate Bill 1153 introduces two new transfer evaluation standards that will significantly slow the transfer review process and hinder water management flexibility and efficiency for farms, ranches, irrigation districts, and other agricultural water suppliers across the state. As we head into a future where new water rights are no longer available, the water right transfer process will provide crucial flexibility for water right holders to manage existing water rights more efficiently.

This would threaten Oregon ability to manage water efficiently and responsible through the use of water rights transfers. This will devastate family farms. This is more government overreach. There isn't a problem with the laws in place now.

Why is everything that comes out of Salem making farming more difficult? Please vote this measure down because it just adds more paperwork and time to an already delicate situation. I ask that the Oregon legislators start taking farmers more seriously and make sure that when you do pass legislation you ask yourself if this is going to help farmers and make things easier for them....it doesn't seem like you are doing that at this time. I believe this bill poses significant challenges to our ability to efficiently manage and utilize existing water rights.

At this juncture, Oregon's legislature should seek ways to enhance water right flexibility to ensure water users can improve operational efficiencies while protecting existing water rights, including instream water rights. The new standard under SB 1153 does the opposite; it is not conducive to the wise and efficient use of Oregon's water resources, and, if implemented, it will have far-reaching effects on Oregon's economy and the livability of communities across Oregon. For these reasons, **I urge you to vote against SB 1153.**