

Submitter:

John Lambie

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1153

I strongly support this legislation since the current rules and process on transfers do not provide OWRD the mechanisms it needs to be able to say no to a transfer that will remove critical flows of water. Water flows to support salmonids and other species that rely upon the movement of groundwater to surface water are the life blood of the food supply and of an ecosystem. The current transfer rules require that OWRD consider the water in the water right as already removed from the water budget. This is not true in actual fact if the transfer depletes a stream more acutely due to the new diversion point or significantly differently due to the location of the diversion point. OWRD is a very competent organization, and they follow the law very carefully. Thus they need a law that enables them to do their work well. This is such a law that defers to their expertise and provides them the needed tools in the law.