

To: Senate Committee On Rules

Date: June 3, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1153

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1153 because Oregon needs to start taking better care of its rivers before it's too late.

I'm a father, and I want my son to grow up swimming in rivers that are clean, safe, and full of life—not watching them shrink, turn toxic, or become too dangerous for even our dog to drink from. That's not a hypothetical. It's already happening in real time. Algae blooms are shutting down recreation areas. Dead fish wash up in the summer heat. Dogs are dying from the water. We are literally shitting where we eat.

As a lifelong Oregonian [or adjust to “resident,” “rural landowner,” etc.], I've seen firsthand how our rivers and streams have changed—lower flows, warmer temperatures, more algae, fewer fish. It's not just happening during drought years. It's becoming the norm. SB 1153 would give the Water Resources Department a stronger mandate to ask the right questions when evaluating water right transfers—like whether a change will dry up a critical fish-bearing stream or worsen conditions in already polluted water.

This is not anti-farming or anti-logging. It's just common sense. If we keep pulling water from streams that barely support salmon as it is, we're going to push more native species to the brink—and once they're gone, they're not coming back. The same goes for water quality. When a stream is already “water quality limited,” we shouldn't allow decisions that make it worse.

SB 1153 gives Oregon a tool to slow down, look at the bigger picture, and protect what's left. I urge you to pass it for all of our sons, without amendments that weaken its intent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.