

Submitter: Gail Ohara  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

Action alert for Oregon rivers! Tell legislators to pass Senate Bill 1153

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Take Action: Tell legislators to pass Senate Bill 1153

Dear Gail,

You can help win an important bill for Oregon rivers. Until 1 p.m. this Thursday, the Senate Rules committee is taking public testimony on Senate Bill 1153: legislation that would tighten a dangerous loophole that currently allows the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve water right changes even if they hurt our streams.

You can take action in two ways:

Submit testimony to the committee BEFORE the 1 p.m. deadline this Thursday, June 5, and

Email your Senator and Representative today to tell them to vote YES on SB 1153

Yes! I'll speak up for Oregon streams!

Did you know that under current law, Oregon can approve applications to change existing water rights with zero consideration of environmental harm? That's right: impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality, and recreation are not even considered. SB 1153 would require the Oregon Water Resources Department to consider potential streamflow impacts as part of its existing process for reviewing proposed water right changes (called "transfers"). With many streams at risk of running dry, reforms like this are critical for our shared water future.

You can help us build the record of public support for this important bill. Before 1 p.m. this Thursday, June 5, drop comments supporting SB 1153 in the "submit testimony" web form for the public hearing on June 3. Make sure to enter your "position on the

measure” as “SUPPORT.” Then click on “text testimony” at the bottom of the form and add your written testimony. (See sample text below.)

Add my voice to the record of support for SB 1153!

SB 1153 will also need your help to survive tough votes in the Senate and the House in the weeks ahead. So we’re also asking you to please take a moment to tell your Legislators that you support this commonsense bill—and they should too.

Email your Senator and your Representative today and tell them to vote YES on SB 1153. (See sample text below.) \*\*If you miss the deadline for committee testimony, this is still a GREAT way to get your message across.\*\*

Email your legislators right now to support SB 1153!

Your message can be very simple. You’re encouraged to copy and paste the message below, but note that by adding your personal experience about the value of healthy streams, your message carries even more power.

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 1153 to safeguard streamflows in water right transfers.

The water in our streams is our state’s lifeblood. It grows our salmon and our food, and it fuels our families. It ties us to our neighbors upstream and downstream. It belongs to all of us.

Yet for far too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without adequate consideration of whether the change will harm streamflows. Lower water levels in a stream can hurt fish, impair water quality, and decrease scenic and recreation values.

Senate Bill 1153 safeguards our streams—and the fish, water quality, and scenic values they support—by ensuring a narrow subset of proposed non-municipal water right changes won’t further diminish flows in unprotected streams. This bill also enhances existing processes for tribal consultation with a goal of identifying and addressing potential impacts to tribal interests in water.

I urge your support of SB 1153 and the life-sustaining streamflows it will safeguard.