

Submitter:

Thomas Karwaki

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1153

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

Surface water in our streams is our state's lifeblood. It grows our salmon and our food. It belongs to all of us.

Unfortunately a 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 which will impact downstream users.

Senate Bill 1153 helps safeguard streams — and the fish and animals the streams support. SB 1153 ensures a narrow subset of proposed water right changes won't further diminish flows in unprotected streams. For non-municipal users, this will help guard against harm for most proposed upstream stream diversion changes or movement of groundwater wells within a quarter mile of 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.