

Submitter: Kirk Blaine  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153  
Senate Committee on Rules:

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on Senate Bill 1153. This vital legislation will safeguard our state's precious streamflows during water right transfers.

Water is the lifeblood of Oregon. It sustains our salmon, irrigates our crops, and supports our communities, connecting us all from upstream to downstream. It's a shared resource that belongs to everyone.

For too long, an outdated loophole has allowed the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve water right transfers without fully considering the harm they can cause to streamflows. Lower water levels directly impact fish populations, degrade water quality, and diminish our scenic and recreational areas.

Senate Bill 1153 closes this loophole. It ensures that certain non-municipal water right changes won't further deplete unprotected streams, thereby protecting our fish, water quality, and natural beauty. Additionally, this bill strengthens tribal consultation processes, aiming to identify and address potential impacts on tribal water interests.

Please support SB 1153 and help protect the life-sustaining streamflows that are so critical to our state.

Sincerely,  
Kirk Blaine