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My husband and I are farmers in Yamhill and Polk counties and I am writing in opposition to SB 1153 and the proposed amendments.

We farm around 1,100 acres and roughly two thirds of our land have water rights attached to them. Having the ability to apply irrigation broadens the range of crops we can grow and allows us to chose more profitable crops. Irrigation makes land produce more per acre, thereby making more efficient use of input resources.

The water rights laws in Oregon are complex. In this time of climate change it is important that we can efficiently use our limited water resources to the greatest benefit for the state. Allowing an efficient system for transferring water rights, provides us with needed flexibility. This benefits us, but it also benefits society as a whole. Producing the maximum yield of crops by the efficient use of our resources (water and other inputs) is a win/win.

This current bill and amendments instead create additional layers of bureaucratic review which will slow down the process, thereby reducing rather than increasing flexibility for farmers. This is not the direction the state should go in at this time. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Helle Ruddenklau