

Submitter: Philip Ratcliff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

Under current law, Oregon can approve applications to change existing water rights with no consideration of environmental harm. That's right: effects to fish, wildlife, water quality, and recreation are not even considered. SB 1153 would require the Oregon Water Resources Department to consider potential streamflow effects as part of its existing process for reviewing proposed water right changes ("transfers"). With many streams at risk of running dry, reforms like this are critical for our shared water future.