

Submitter: Thomas Hope

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

Dear committee members:

I oppose SB1153. The other portions of existing law that regulate transfer of water rights is measurable, visible, and most importantly PREDICTABLE. A farmer or someone considering purchases, sales, or modifications and understand and predict the impact and results of their investment. But the modifications make the law vague and subject to non-measurable claims that can be made by any politician, special interest group, or dishonest "interested person". You can't run a farm or any other business when you can't predict the outcomes. Anyone can make a charge or claim that makes your land or plans for your land worthless, just because it "might" interfere with a grassland plant or spider someday. How many thousands of dollars will it take to fight claims like that? You might as well tell all farmers they can't water their property unless they pay millions to run city water out.

People are already going out of business and leaving the state because it is so hard to do business here. Now this is just one more reason for productive people to see no clear future here. Sell out to some major agribiz corporation and try to start elsewhere? Is there a goal to redevelop small farms for something else?