

Submitter:

Bryant Atanasio

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1153

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bryant Atanasio and I live in Eugene. Hiking, birding, and fly fishing on Oregon's public land and waterways are important parts of my life, and I am concerned that a failure to pass Senate Bill 1153 would jeopardize these resources.

I spend my summer weekends wading the McKenzie River in a massive wildfire burn scar, and my winter off-days fishing coastal rivers that wind through clear-cuts. These experiences have shown me the looming threats that water resources already face in Oregon, and we cannot continue to enable their destruction by turning a blind eye to the environmental impact water right transfers can pose. An environmental review of water right transfers would ensure that unique and threatened fisheries—like summer Steelhead on the Umpqua River or Bull Trout in the Deschutes Basin—are not hung out to dry in the hot Oregon summer.

I spent several years working in the fishing industry and have many friends who continue rely on natural resources in Oregon as fishing guides, rafting guides, and outfitters. Neglecting to consider the environmental impact of water transfers when there is nothing to spare will not only impact resources, but industries and Oregonians that rely on them.

I ask you to please support SB 1153, which would require an environmental impact review of water right transfers in Oregon. This is a simple step to ensuring the future of Oregon's water. I support it. Thank you.