

Submitter:	Craig McKern
On Behalf Of:	family
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1153

I oppose SN 1153. On behalf on myself, my brother and cousins who own and operate a Century Farm in Grant County, may I say that water rights are rights, not preferences, suggestions, desires, wants, wishes, dreams or hopes. The rights are rights. Established over decades and centuries. The owners and operators of ranches and farms live close to the water that irrigates their crops and waters their livestock. They almost always depend on wells. Water is an essential.

May I also suggest that the changes proposed in SB1153 should pass muster at the watershed level through hearings and elections. Urbanized areas of the state who have no real stake in this proposed legislation do not get a vote.

May I also state I am a fisherman, member of Northwest Steel-headers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the McKenzie River Trust. Being quite sensitive to issues of aquatic species, I believe this proposed legislation will not do want needs doing.

Namely, more small reservoirs in upper river basins, more river habitat enhancement, more invasive species removal/elimination, more control of sea lion and seal populations where needed and more hatchery production of fish derived from native genetics.

Thank you for your attention!