

Submitter: Diana Shapiro  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153  
Senators Jama, Bonham, Golden, Manning and Thatcher,

After listening to the informational meeting and public hearing this week and looking at the -5 and now -6 amendments it looks like things are getting worse not better!

The current testimony on this bill shows (estimated) that about 75% are OPPOSED, as I am, to these proposed changes to Oregon water rights laws.

Farmers and Ranchers need to have the ability to manage their water rights to grow our food. These changes will essentially stop their ability to move water around on their own land as they have done for many decades. They are experienced in proper water use and conservation and this bill would take that away from them. During times of drought or other emergencies farmers and ranchers can make adjustments to conserve their water use by moving water around. An exception has been made for municipalities and needs to be made for districts as well so that our food supply is not damaged. PLEASE add an exemption for our irrigation districts to continue to work these transfers. This bill has vague language and is complicated, while adding burden to the OWRD when it is already backlogged and behind. What is the cost of this new regulatory burden? How will this be funded and who will pay for it? PLEASE do not push this flawed bill forward.

Thank you.