

Submitter: Dana Estensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1153

Please Oppose SB 1153 – Water Transfer Restrictions

As a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau and a farmer in both Marion and Yamhill counties, I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1153 and its water transfer restrictions. Farmers need practical, flexible water policy to stay viable and respond to climate and economic pressures. This bill would eliminate that flexibility by altering the water right transfer process.

Since new water rights are practically unavailable, the only way farmers can responsibly and efficiently manage existing water rights is through transfers. Adding more restrictions and uncertainty - especially without strong justification - undermines our ability to plan, invest, and survive as agricultural producers.

The two new criteria that SB 1153 would add to the already rigorous transfer evaluation process are vague, redundant, and will create new roadblocks that could lead to losing access to water at critical times.

Please stand with Oregon agriculture and vote NO on SB 1153. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Estensen