



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

601 State Street · Hood River, OR 97031 · (541) 386-3970 · FAX (541) 386-9392

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June 5, 2025

Senator Kayse Jama
Senate Rules Committee Chair
900 Court St. NE, S-223
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Hood River County Opposes SB 1153.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

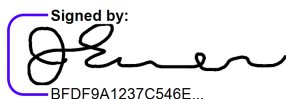
Hood River County is served by multiple water providers—including the City of Hood River, Farmers Irrigation District, Crystal Springs Water District, Middle Fork Irrigation District, Ice Fountain Water District, and East Fork Irrigation District—who supply agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial water throughout the Hood River Valley. Our communities and our economy rely on functional water systems to supply our growing population, irrigate high-value orchard lands and other crops, support our tourist industry, and foster a diverse mix of manufacturing, commercial, and industrial businesses.

Looking ahead, our region needs flexibility to meet changing demands, respond to climate change impacts, and share our limited water resources. The ability to adjust places of use, move points of diversion/appropriation, and other transfer activities is critical to ensuring water managers can respond effectively to evolving conditions and balance both in-stream and out-of-stream needs.

We are concerned that proposed changes to water rights procedures will complicate or halt these necessary transfers by adding new, potentially unworkable requirements. Increased data demands, lengthier timelines, and protests from outside entities will make the process difficult, unpredictable, and costly—hindering efforts to respond to natural disasters or plan for a secure water future.

Rather than creating new hurdles, we urge support for more effective implementation of existing standards that already address enlargement and injury. Flexibility, not rigidity, is key to protecting our community, economy, and environment for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Jennifer Euwer, Chair
Hood River County Board of Commissioners