

# WATER LEAGUE

*Water League engages the public  
in water stewardship*

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**In Memoriam**  
John L. Gardiner

June 5, 2025

To: Senate Committee On Rules  
Senator Kayse Jama, Chair  
Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair  
Senators Jeff Golden, James Manning Jr., and Kim Thatcher

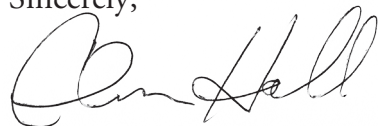
RE: Water League is neutral on SB 1153-5 and we strongly advise legislators to advance more carefully considered legislation in the 2026 Short Session.

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

Water League agrees with critiques that a bill of such importance and magnitude as SB 1153 should not have been sequestered in the Senate Committee on Rules for almost two months before a raft of amendments and substantial revisions appeared in the past few hours just two weeks before *Sine Die*. We understand that vested interests have sought to hammer out a resolution that they can live with. However, not sufficiently incorporating the public interest of Oregon's 4.2 million citizens is a regressive element of the political culture that we reject.

We stridently oppose the conventional wisdom (political culture) that justifies the formation of a privileged stakeholder syndicate engineered to negotiate important water use policies that legislators and the public do not have the time or wherewithal to vet.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hall  
Executive Director