

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Oregon Ground Water Association

RE: SB 1154

Position: Oppose with Suggestions to Improve

6/11/25



2755 Commercial St. SE  
STE 101-333  
Salem, OR 97302

The mission of the Oregon Ground Water Association is to promote sustainable groundwater development and management for maximum beneficial use without waste or contamination. The stated objective of SB 1154 to establish a process for managing water quality contamination is an important issue.

Our association has concerns about a few elements of this proposed legislation. The first is how the interagency team activities with additional responsibilities would be funded. The agencies involved have noted that they are strained with existing resources and budgets. If an area is determined to be designated a GWQMA (Groundwater Quality Management Area), the cost and remedy of remediation is unclear regarding financials. It is unclear how the 6 agencies would balance roles, responsibilities and avoid unnecessary redundancies.

An area of inconsistency is the amount of equivalent water use referenced in Section 20 (a) of 5,000 gallons per day per abandoned well does not align with statute (ORS 537.535) and rules of 15,000 gallons per day domestic well use for exempt use domestic wells. We would like to see this use amount aligned to 15,000 GPD or be removed from SB 1154.

There is a real concern about our ability to balance resource protection of water with beneficial use (without waste), landowner rights, and economic activity in Oregon. The complexity of SB 1154 as written falls short of these objectives.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kevin Gill

Government Affairs Representative

Oregon Ground Water Association