



August 7, 2025

TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Tobias Read
Secretary of State
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1047

Dear Secretary Read,

Pursuant to Article V, Section 15b, I am returning Senate Bill 1047 unsigned because of my objections as outlined below.

Senate Bill 1047 requires the Oregon Water Resources Department to expedite the process and review of any permit related to development of a groundwater right, including a well or storage, on a specific parcel in Curry County. The bill further requires Curry County to expedite processing of any applications for land use planning, building permits, business licensing, and public health or restaurant licensing to the same specific site. While I generally support efforts to improve permitting processes, I am not signing this bill due to two reasons:

First, there is no overriding policy rationale for moving a specific application for a new water right to the head of the line for agency consideration. Second, statutory solutions like these pose inherent process concerns for allocating a scarce resource without sufficient public policy justification. Senate Bill 1047 does not address any known or articulated shortcoming of water right permitting issues for the identified location.

I understand that many of our counties, especially our rural counties, are looking for opportunities to promote economic development and build business opportunity. Preferencing any one potential project in statute without substantial public debate does not serve the public interest, nor allow for thoughtful and deliberate consideration of the impacts of a proposed development opportunity on a constrained resource, especially one as important to our survival as water.

I look forward to working with the bill sponsors to expand housing and economic development opportunities in Curry County in order to bolster the vitality of the beautiful South Coast of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Speaker of the House Julie Fahey
Senate President Rob Wagner