



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

July 24, 2025

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

RE: Senate Bill 1154

Dear Secretary Read:

I am signing Senate Bill 1154 which modernizes the state's Groundwater Quality Protection Act. Additionally, I am confirming three points that were established in the legislative record concerning data availability as well as the relationship between Senate Bill 1154 and ongoing efforts in the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA).

First, it is my expectation that all data developed by agencies relevant to designation of an area of concern or critical ground water area will be made available to the public in a transparent and accessible way. Second, Senate Bill 1154 will not affect the lead agency designation in the LUBGWMA. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will remain the lead agency for the duration of the groundwater management area designation. Third, the Nitrate Reduction Plan, including actions already initiated and completed as part of the plan, satisfies the requirements of Senate Bill 1154 Section 44 which allows waiver of new statutory requirements that are duplicative or redundant to actions or processes proceeding in an existing groundwater management area.

I hope this letter provides the needed certainty and clarity regarding implementation of Senate Bill 1154 to LUBGWMA participants to facilitate their continued collaborative work to address nitrate contamination in the region.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

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

TK:smg