

CONSERVATION ALERT LIR & SCENIC RIVERS IN PERIL Call YOUR State Senator.

Tulsa State Senator Dave Rader & Oklahoma Water Resources Board target Oklahoma Scenic Rivers waters. Massive water withdrawal and opening the sale of our precious water to Texas being planned. Rader, citing OKWRB "self study" presentation finds Arkansas & Illinois river waters can be defined as "excess and surplus" and taken. OWRB, Rader and Texas target:

7.3 million acre feet above Scenic Rivers at entry into OK

4.4 million additional acres feet Webbers Falls

8.4 million acre feet in the Arkansas river at Robert S Kerr.

What Rader fails to mention and the OWRB prefers not to take into consideration is the devastating impact on fisheries, local farms, ranches, retailer, aquifers, costs to small rural town water districts and all wildlife. He makes no mention of the fact that the existing scarce water supply is already 140% over allocated at Tenkiller lake and that there is virtually no water "allocated" for the Lower Illinois river, not one drop, even before this potential theft.

Additional points:

- Under OK law the ORWB need not do ANY downstream water supply or in stream flow study
- No financial impact study on the areas water is taken from
- No accounting for annual multimillion tourism revenue and state sales taxes lost.
- No accounting for annual multimillion annual recreation industry and retail sales lost, including lost tax revenue.
- There is virtually zero compensation to the region where water is taken that we are aware of.
- There are no hardship payments to rural farmers, ranchers or towns who probably will need to dig wells or make multimillion dollar enlargements to existing town water supplies.
- There is no law stopping them from taking all waters noted even during our severe droughts leaving none for local use.

In my opinion, this scheme by the OWRB will to do long term and permanent harm at great cost to our state, our fisheries and conservation in general. It will hurt our tax, slash retail sales and could double water rates, including Tulsa. Moving ahead with this is just a bad idea.

Trout Unlimited is committed to the long term and reasonable use of our resources, the protection of our venerable fisheries, wildlife and way of life.

Read Rader's article which fails to present the full story and it's drastic negative impact. See today's Tulsa World page A11. Draining Oklahoma's most popular river is not a "budget fix".

I strongly encourage you to CALL Senator Rader immediately and let him know your thoughts, either way, on this critical issue. It may well be the largest threat to our fisheries in this decade. Outside Tulsa county contact your Senator.

Call Senator Dave Rader (405) 521-5620 rader@oksenate.gov

Contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board now <https://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/comments.php>