

Submitter: Sarah Red-Laird

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2929

I am writing in support of injunctive authority to stop illegal water use as proposed in HB2929.

This is a common sense proposal that would permit our regulators to protect Oregon farmers, ranchers, livestock, and wildlife from the harm of illegal water theft.

Water may be the most precious commodity in Southern Oregon; willful waste, diversion, and use of water that one has no right to is unacceptable.

As a bee habitat conservationist, my organization has lost thousands of dollars directly through seed that was planted, then unable to be irrigated due to mysterious disappearance of water resources. Indirectly we have wasted thousands more on staff time, monitoring equipment, and lab costs for projects that were halted and cancelled due to lack of water on Southern Oregon pastures. Our farming and ranching partners had full water rights, but empty streams and canals as a result of surface and irrigation water disappearance.

The Oregon Water Resources Department needs the authority to act now.