

To: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, Representative Mark Owens, Vice Chair, Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Ag, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

From: Michael Martin, League of Oregon Cities and Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon

Date: March 23, 2023

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) are writing to submit comments on House Bill 2929 and share our concerns with the proposed legislation.

One of our primary concerns is the final phrase: “or any threat to water supplies, public health or public safety.” This seems to give circuit courts the authority to require someone to “take any actions to remedy” (which is exceptionally broad) to a very broad set of threats, and it does not appear to be limited to remedying threats caused by the person’s own activity. It seems like this last phrase should, at the very least, be linked to threats directly caused by the person’s illegal activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment on the proposed legislation. The League of Oregon Cities and Special Districts Association of Oregon are neutral on House Bill 2929.

Respectfully,
Michael Martin (LOC)
Mark Landauer (SDAO)