



Senate Majority Office

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## **Oregon Senate Preserves and Protects Water Resources**

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 2010](#), a key component of the [Drought and Water Security Budget and Policy Package](#), and [House Bill 2929](#), which allows the Water Resources Department to quickly shutdown threats to our safe water supply. After years of drought harming Oregonians across the state, this set of investments and protections promotes fresh, clean and safe water supply for Oregon families, farms, fish and wildlife.

“Urban and rural communities alike, are experiencing more and more water challenges,” said **Senate Majority Lieber Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton and SW Portland)**. “From farms to data centers, wells to waste water, we all have a responsibility to preserve and protect this vital resource.”

HB 2010 includes policy and budget components of the 2023 Drought and Water Security Budget and Policy Package. It combines 14 measures introduced this session and will:

- Provide support and technical assistance for farmers to improve water management practices
- Protect, enhance and restore critical sources of drinking and other types of water systems that support local industries and ecosystems
- Bolster water-related data necessary to more efficiently detect risks and coordinate water management.

“Water quality and availability is critical for every family and industry in Oregon,” said **Senator Michael Dembrow (D - Portland)**. “These bills will give our state and our communities the tools we need to ensure families and businesses across Oregon can thrive.”

The bill also invests \$23 million to various drought and water programs including funding for a variety of purposes, including:

- Place-Based Water Planning
- Agricultural Water Technical Assistance
- Water Reuse and Recycling
- Small Community Water Systems

HB 2929 authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to seek injunctive relief through a county circuit court if the department has information that a person is illegally using or harming a water source. The bill requires the department to report to the Legislature on the frequency and outcomes of the department's pursuit of injunctions.

"The last few years have been a sobering preview of hard times for Oregon communities, farmers and all of us who depend on them," said **Senator Jeff Golden (D-Ashland), Chair of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources**. "Illegal water use is something that hurts all of Oregon. We are taking steps to preserve our water sources for our communities and future generations."

HB 2010 and HB 2929 are some of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, these bills now move to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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