



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Democrats support bipartisan legislation for sustainable water use

SB 1529 prohibits irrigation requirements under certain conditions

SALEM – Oregon Senate Democrats today voted to provide certain exceptions for homeowners' watering requirements during times of drought.

Senate Bill 1529 passed today with a 21-7 bipartisan vote. The bill prohibits enforcement of residential irrigation requirements while a Governor's drought declaration is in effect; when the Water Resources Commission finds that severe or continuing drought exists or is likely to occur; or when a local government adopts an ordinance requiring conservation or curtailment of water use.

In 2015, Oregon experienced severe to extreme drought situations across the state. The 25 counties receiving drought declarations represents the most since 1992 when a statewide declaration was issued.

"This is a common sense approach to make sure homeowners association requirements are reasonable, based on the current water situations in the communities where they are located," said Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. "The bill received bipartisan support and helps to protect our precious water resource during times when it may become scarce."

The bill now goes before the House of Representatives for consideration.

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