



## **Statement of the Oregon Land And Water Alliance on HB 3021**

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, OR. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land And Water Alliance. The Oregon Land And Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to this bill on behalf of OLAWA.

It is not an exaggeration to say that this bill, at least in its present form, is a full-scale attack on Oregon's longstanding water use laws as they relate to forfeiture for nonuse.

Frankly, we had hoped that amendments would have been introduced by now to tone down the more drastic aspects of this bill to insure that the legislature would not be "throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

As it exists in its original form, HB 3021 would sanction wide scale disuse of existing water rights following the employment of any form of conservation practices. And the former water rights user would then be able transfer to another party, for profit, all of the conserved water, along with the water they have actually been using.

Bear in mind that the public actually owns the conserved water, and also often is the ultimate funding source for the funds to support and encourage the ongoing conservation practices in the first place.

We have just seen Representative Helms proposed amendments, HB 3021-X (LC 2157), that he has very recently submitted as testimony on this bill. And we would view those amendments as a substantial improvement.

For all of these reasons, OLAWA must oppose HB 3021.

Pease vote "NO" on HB 3021.

And thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

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