

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

04/20/2026

HB26-1340 Revegetate or Dry Farm Formerly Irrigated Ag Land

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jade Markus Against themselves	I am Jade Markus, a 5th generation farmer and rancher, that is raising the 6th generation, from Ordway, CO. I am opposing HB26-1340. This is not a state water court issue. This needs to stay at a county level. Most countries are working on the regulations and rules in their 1040s. Crowley County is working on these areas and standards now. Water Court does not need to be in control of the regenerative or dry land farm conversion of previous irrigated ground. This bill withholds rightful property (water) of the water buyer for an unclear amount of time. This seems like it can fall under a Takings issue. It ALSO holds the land owner to very little standards after the water is sold. In counties in southeast Colorado that have sold water, they have had good revegetated ground. It has either been land owners or previous land owners that have hurt the vegetation or poorly farmed and grazed these properties. HB26-1340 does not hold the land owners that sold water responsible.