



February 18, 2025

Representative Ken Helm
Representative Mark Owens
Co-Chairs, House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3526

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support HB 3526. This legislation provides basic transparency and timely information for Oregon homebuyers about the safety of the water in the homes they plan to purchase. The testing and information sharing that this bill requires provides homebuyers with information that all Oregonians deserve to know about the properties they own and the water they consume every day.

HB 3526 makes three straightforward improvements to current law:

- It shifts the timing of well water disclosures so that test results are provided to prospective buyers as part of the seller's property disclosures, before an offer is accepted;
- To improve accountability, the bill holds sellers responsible if they fail to disclose unsafe water conditions, giving buyers legal recourse if they later discover contamination that was not reported; and
- It transfers oversight of well water reporting from the Oregon Health Authority to the Department of Environmental Quality, an agency better suited to monitor groundwater quality across the state.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To this end, we urge you to ensure that Oregon homebuyers have up-front, accurate information about the safety of their drinking water by supporting House Bill 3526.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Oregon Housing Alliance
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org