

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, members of the Committee,

At the beginning of last year, the federally funded Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) expired, leaving thousands of low-income Oregonians without a critical lifeline to keep their water running. During its two years of operation, LIHWAP provided over \$10.4 million in assistance to over 18,500 households across Oregon's 36 counties. This program was a critical safeguard for many families, helping them stay in their homes and avoid preventable public health crises.

Access to clean, reliable water is fundamental to family stability, public health, and community well-being. When households fall behind on water payments, they face the risk of disconnection, which can result in their homes being labeled as "dangerous buildings."

This designation often leads to eviction or repair costs that low-income families simply cannot afford. Once families lose access to their homes, the effects ripple through the community, increasing housing instability, creating public health hazards, and deepening cycles of poverty.

HB 3527 will provide \$11 million to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to bridge the funding gap left by LIHWAP's expiration. This funding will ensure that vulnerable Oregonians can maintain access to clean, reliable water—preventing disconnections and the cascading hardships they bring.

By investing in this program, we can demonstrate that Oregon takes care of its people when they need it most. I urge you to support HB 3527.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County