

Testimony

April 30, 2025

To: House Committee on Rules
Subject: Support HB 3525-A

Chair Representative Bowman, Vice Chairs Representative Drazen and Pham and members of the committee

My name is Madison Prue. I grew up in the Klamath Basin, where my community was surrounded by water we were scared to touch. I now live in Springfield, Oregon, where, as a renter, I still face uncertainty surrounding the quality of the only water I can afford to access. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3545-A because all Oregonians deserve access to safe drinking water.

Currently, there are no requirements for testing well water in rental properties, leaving many tenants unknowingly at risk of exposure to contaminants like arsenic, E.coli, and nitrates. During the treacherous ice storm that impacted the Willamette Valley in 2024, I personally experienced the existential fear of not knowing whether my apartment complex's water supply was safe to use for bathing, cooking, and drinking. As impacts from climate change increase across Oregon, it is a critical time to take meaningful action to manage water in a way that prioritizes public health, including the health of renters.

HB 3525 would ensure that landlords in Groundwater Management Areas and Areas of Concern test their well water regularly and share the results with tenants, allowing them to make informed decisions about their health and safety. This bill is a step in the right direction towards transparency in well water quality reporting and community health as it strengthens existing housing laws and aligns with Oregon's broader efforts to protect groundwater and public health.

Safe drinking water should not be a privilege. It is an inherent right. I urge you to support HB 3525 to ensure that all renters in Oregon have access to safe drinking water and transparent water quality information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,

Madison Prue