

Submitter: Timothy Herrera
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3525

Subject: Urgent Support for HB 3525: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for All Oregon Renters

To Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

My name is Timothy Herrera, and I am writing as a faculty member of University of Oregon who advocates for environmental justice and healthy communities, and also as an Oregon renter. I am writing to strongly urge your support for HB 3525, a vital piece of legislation that will ensure all Oregonians, particularly renters, have access to safe drinking water.

Currently, a significant gap exists in our laws, as there are no mandatory requirements for testing well water in rental properties. This leaves countless tenants vulnerable to unknowingly consuming water contaminated with substances such as arsenic, E. coli, and nitrates. As someone who believes access to clean water is fundamental, I feel it is our responsibility to act decisively to protect the health of Oregon renters.

HB 3525 offers a common-sense solution by requiring landlords to conduct regular well water testing and transparently share the results with their tenants. This empowers renters to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being. This bill is a crucial step in strengthening our existing housing laws and directly supports Oregon's commitment to safeguarding groundwater resources and public health.

Access to safe drinking water is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right. I implore you to vote in favor of HB 3525 and ensure that all renters in Oregon have the right to safe drinking water and the information necessary to protect their health.

Thank you for your dedicated service and for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

Timothy Herrera
University of Oregon