



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 18, 2025

To: Reps. [Helm](#) and [Owens](#), Co-Chairs

Members of the [House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water](#)

Re: [HB3526](#) – Providing property buyers and DEQ information on drinking water wells – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters adopted a position on water quality in 1969, a position on Water Policy and Planning in 1977 and, after 3 years of study, adopted a combined Water Policy-Quality and Quantity position in 2011. Many League members—Oregonians across the state—get their drinking water from wells.

With the passage of HB 3526, buyers will be provided with clarity and certainty that the property under consideration, which depends on a drinking water well, has full and complete information as they consider purchasing said property. We appreciate that the legislature has required sellers to test and provide results to the buyers—legislation that the League has supported, but a timelier sharing would be beneficial to both the seller and buyer. We are hopeful that sellers will also assist buyers better understand and help domestic well owners manage the health of their drinking water.

Also of importance to the League is that this broader set of data being collected around well water quality in Oregon be provided to the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as they struggle to better understand the breadth of groundwater contamination in Oregon. By requiring the data currently provided to the Oregon Health Authority to also be forwarded to DEQ, we are completing a loop much needed. If additional staffing is needed by DEQ to assure this information is aggregated in a timely manner to help paint the picture of groundwater quality in Oregon, we would also support that request.

We are seeing more and more drinking water wells being drilled, and we are seeing current wells drying up or becoming contaminated. We know that there are serious health concerns around well water contamination. As we experience more drought, groundwater contamination is likely to become an even greater issue. One solution lies with this bill.

We urge your **support for HB 3526**.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator