

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3525. I drafted this bill, and the next one we'll hear, because of the conversations I've had with families across Oregon—especially in rural and coastal communities. Again and again, I heard the same thing: "I had no idea that the water was unsafe."

Many tenants are unknowingly drinking contaminated well water because there is no requirement for landlords to test it or share results. People have a right to know if the water coming out of their faucet is safe. And right now, that right is being denied.

We already require landlords to maintain habitable housing, but **our laws fall short when it comes to water safety**. HB 3525 closes that gap. It requires landlords who rent properties with domestic wells to test for arsenic, E. coli, and nitrates—dangerous contaminants that can cause severe health issues, from cancer to developmental delays in children. The bill also ensures transparency by requiring that test results be shared with both tenants and prospective renters before they sign a lease.

This bill is a balance between tenant safety and feasibility for landlords. If tests come back clean, landlords only need to test again every four years. But, if contamination is found, they must **fix the problem** and conduct follow-up testing until the water is safe. **I do want to be clear that my intention for this legislation is not about punishing landlords—it's about accountability and upholding our current laws requiring clean water.**

I also want to note that a forthcoming amendment will change the reporting agency from DEQ to OHA and add lead to the list of contaminants to be tested.

As legislators, our job is to **listen, learn, and act**, and what I've heard is clear: **we cannot compromise on safe drinking water**.

Water is a human right, and we cannot continue a system that leaves renters in the dark about the very thing that sustains them. **HB 3525 is a part of how we fix that**, and I urge your support for this bill.

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

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

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