

Good Morning! My name is Nick Workhoven and I am writing to support, actually to strongly support the original version of HB 3172 which, if enacted, would require inspection of an existing septic system upon transfer of a property within the state of Oregon. My wife is a Registered Nurse and I am a physician and we are very concerned about the blue-green algae toxins released during blooms on Ten Mile Lakes, Lakeside OR. Every year one can read in the newspapers of a dog or two that dies after lapping up waters from contaminated lakes like Ten Mile Lakes. We have three beautiful little granddaughters who simply love to jump into, splash about in the lake and go "tubering", their term for riding a big plastic blowup behind our boat. Are they at risk from ingesting waters from the lake? You bet they are! Are they at risk from breathing in aerosolized water droplets containing this hepatic and neurotoxin? You bet they are!

Will it take the illness or, heavens forbid, the death of a child about the size and weight of an average dog before meaningful action will be taken to address these toxic algae blooms that, in the summer, are directly linked primarily to failed septic systems? A survey done in 2007 of shoreside septic systems on Ten Mile Lakes found that only 7 of 26 inspected systems were functional. There are several hundred permanent and vacation cabins around the lakes. Do the math.

We are aware that the Realtors Lobby is co-writing an amendment to this bill that would gut the only effective part of the bill, mandatory inspections. They are seeking a "voluntary" system of questions that the seller must answer and the potential answers are YES, NO and UNKNOWN. Guess what a seller who has not maintained his septic system or doesn't know the first thing about it will chose for an answer. They are worried about consumer costs - the seller would probably have to pay for the inspection and the findings might halt the sale. Unsaid by them is their worry about their commission on the potential sale. I'm all for folks making a profit. However, this situation seems to balance the ability of a group to enhance their profit margin against the cost of human health and welfare. Not to mention dog welfare.

We expect the State of Oregon to support human health and welfare over profit margins.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter and to this issue.

Sincerely,

Nick Workhoven, MD