

ORielly Patti

From: Gerald Breazeale <irrigon@oregontrail.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 9:22 AM
To: ORielly Patti
Cc: aerne.melissa@deq.state.or.us
Subject: Funding for DEQ Groundwater Monitoring Program

Re: Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program (#128)

Dear Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

This letter is in support of the budget for the DEQ plan for groundwater monitoring. As a community greatly affected by groundwater contamination and in need of protection from further groundwater degradation, I can attest to the importance of this program.

Without the ability to adequately sample and test the quality of the groundwater for a large range of potential contaminants, we have no idea what may be happening to this extremely important resource. By being able to sample, test, and make assumptions of what is happening to the groundwater, we can protect a large segment of our population from health related issues from unknown contaminants. We in Irrigon know all too well the costs of dealing with contamination and how easily the groundwater can become degraded. It is far less expensive to characterize the groundwater and anticipate needed actions to prevent contamination than it will ever be to try to clean up or treat contaminated groundwater.

Please accept this recommendation for the funding proposed by DEQ for the Groundwater Monitoring Program. Entire populations are dependant on having access to safe and dependable supplies of groundwater for drinking water supply. By funding this program for preventative monitoring you will save many times that cost for dealing with contamination in the future.

Thank you for your support of the DEQ proposed Groundwater Monitoring Program budget.

Sincerely,

Gerald Breazeale

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