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House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 5, 2013

Re: HB 3186, relating to sewage' creating new provisions

Dear Chair Bailey and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony about House Bill 3186. I support the bill.

HB 3186 requires that DEQ and its agents take a step back to: Identify disadvantaged communities to ensure that the cost of upgrading septic systems is not more than a community can afford.

- a. The majority of the residents who live in this community are Seniors who have limited, fixed incomes. They live on Social Security only. The Seniors cannot afford these systems, ATT's, if they are required. There are many residents who live here that are also below the poverty level or just above the poverty level. Any added expense would be devastating to their incomes. They would have to do without food or medical needs in order to pay for the installation and maintenance of these systems.
- b. Since there was not sufficient evidence to support DEQ's findings, this issue caused our economy to go down the drain.
- c. I have a nephew that has property in the area and wanted to build a home for retirement in a few years, and now he cannot do this because of the added expense of the ATT systems that are required here if you build a new home.
- d. How can we as a community survive without new residents moving into our area?? Or is this what DEQ has in mind: to destroy our community as people die there would be no one who could move here to replace them because of the expense of having to install ATT systems?
- e. There is a local church that cannot expand to meet the needs of its members because the church cannot afford the cost of installing the ATT system.
- f. We had the understanding that there was a good possibility of being able to put in Cluster Systems in many of the areas in the near future and also the possibility to connect to a sewer system. These two mentioned systems are more feasible in the long run and would be a PERMANENT FIX rather than a BAND AID FIX if there was a problem with our groundwater.

- g. If the residents are required to install ATT systems and then later down the road a Cluster System could be installed or they could connect to a Sewer-----THIS WOULD BE A DOUBLE WHAMMY on their incomes, or as some would say – DOUBLE JEOPARDY.

In conclusion, I support this bill. I request that the Committee amend the language with the dash-one amendment. I also encourage the Committee to give this bill, with the dash-one amendment, a “do pass” and send it to the House floor for a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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