



## **House Committee on Energy and Environment**

**February 9, 2016**

### **CLHO Supports HB 4125**

The Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 34 Local Health Departments in Oregon who work to protect the public's health. Oregon's Local Health Departments support HB 4125, legislation that supports monitoring groundwater quality and reducing sources of contamination.

Approximately 23% of Oregonians rely on domestic wells, or private wells, as their primary source of water. And in many parts of the state, this water is polluted. Thousands of Oregonians may be unknowingly drinking water that could lead to cancer, miscarriage and other serious health risks.

Drinking contaminated groundwater causes chronic and acute health problems. Oregon's most common groundwater pollutants are nitrate, arsenic and bacteria. The pollutants are especially dangerous for infants, children and pregnant and nursing women.

This makes groundwater protection and well stewardship of high public health importance. To protect both the lifelong health of Oregonians and the state's groundwater resources, we need to ensure that more well owners test, identify and address groundwater quality hot spots, and reduce septic tank pollution.

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials urges the House Committee on Energy and Environment to support HB 4125.

Respectfully submitted,

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