

Good afternoon,

Representative Helm is hoping that the Joint Committee will consider moving forward with funding (\$95k) that the W&M Tri-Chairs included in the proposed 2020 budget for equipment to analyze drinking water samples for cyanotoxins (see DEQ under [HB 5204 Budget Report](#)).

This equipment is important to protecting the same populations that are vulnerable to COVID-19, and the relatively small investment can help keep the current emergency from being compounded by an additional drinking water crisis this summer. Agencies and infrastructure are stretched thin as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we would be hard pressed to overcome a sudden loss of access to drinking water due, especially for quarantined or isolated populations.

Sincerely,



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