



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

March 21st, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony for HB 3182

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

I'm here in support of HB 3182, which is brought forward by my constituent, Pat Lando. Pat is the Executive Director for Recode Now, a nonprofit whose mission is to ensure access to equitable and sustainable water systems through research, policy change, and advocacy.

The focus of HB 3182 is onsite non-potable water systems. Currently, there are no national or state standards or guidelines for onsite non-potable water reuse systems. The proposed risk-based framework for onsite water reuse systems is more protective of public health than our current regulations. By using the science-based methods proposed in this bill, our agencies can reduce their exposure to risk associated with meeting their public health and environmental regulatory requirements.

Throughout the state, even in water-rich places, the watershed naturally uses most of its water to maintain ecological health and environmental services for people, plants and animals. When we draw water from the watershed, this natural balance is impacted. HB 3182 takes a watershed approach by reusing water that has already been used by right, and keeps more water in the watershed. This creates a healthier environment for fish and wildlife, resulting in better air and water quality.

Lastly, implementing these systems can reduce the impact to centralized water systems from natural disasters and climate change by diversifying our state's water portfolio. I hope Oregon will join a dozen of other states that have either passed or are currently working on onsite non-potable water legislation. Thank you for considering this important bill, and I urge its passage with amendments that incorporate feedback from water resource managers and advocates.

Sincerely,

Alissa Keny-Guyer

