

Oregon House Interim Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, and Water
Informational Meeting, September 21, 2022
Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Protection and the Port of Morrow

Oregon Rural Action
Testimonies of 19 Community Members (English and Spanish)

Testimony: Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez, I live with my wife, two daughters and a son, we have been residents of Boardman since 2009. I work in agriculture and have had different jobs in this field. I have lived in Boardman for thirteen years, nine of which have been on the property we are still on which is located outside the city limits and which has a well and is not shared with any other family.

Since we bought this house almost nine years ago, the former owners told us that the water was not suitable for human consumption, that it could be used, but only with a reverse osmosis filter, which was already installed in the house. I thought that this was enough, to consume the water and although they did an analysis of the water quality by the DEQ company, we did not know the levels of nitrates and contaminants that the water had because despite seeing the results we did not understand why they were written in English.

So it was until my wife tried to investigate why they no longer do those checks for us, she spoke with a woman from DEQ who had coincidentally come to take a water test, my wife asked her what was the reason why they were not done as followed the water quality tests, the woman said yes, that the company was still testing the water quality and my wife asked for a history of the results of the tests that had been done. Over the past years since the results had not been received since 2014.

My wife gave her information so that she could send the information via email and my wife added that if this information could be sent in Spanish. This information has not yet been received. I am very concerned since we have been consuming the water from that filter for 7 years and they did not test the quality of the water from the filter. A year and a half ago we changed the filter since the previous one stopped working and with this new filter they did new tests and these came out to the allowed limit but the water for the rest of the house is above 38 which is alarming because I understand that the maximum level of nitrates is 10. This causes us two problems. The main problem is health and the second problem is economic since to obtain the water, electricity consumption is generated and then we have to use packages of salt to soften the water a little, this causes us to wear out our appliances such as the washing machine that has already been replaced, the faucets to the bathrooms because there is a lot of salt corrosion, the boiler was changed because there was a lot of corrosion and they had told us that it was changed in 2013. Another expense that impacts each year is the pipes of the irrigation system minerals stick to them and they stop working properly and need to be replaced. We also buy bottled water because the filter does not provide enough water for the needs of the family.

We use water for all purposes, for example washing clothes, bathing, in the irrigation system we only avoid the consumption of water in the body, that is, we do not drink it and we do not use it for cooking. They have analyzed the water and also given us the results.

I ask the competent authorities to help us solve this problem since, like those who live in the city, we pay taxes and deserve support for our health and for the health of the community in general and mainly for the health of our children. that they are the future of our society and we do not want to have a sick and decadent society. Thank you in advance for the support you can give us as we know that water is essential for life.

Sincerely,
Alejandro Rodriguez-Sanchez
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Alejandro Rodríguez Sánchez

Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez, vivo con mi esposa, dos hijas y un hijo, somos residentes de Boardman desde el 2009. Yo trabajo en la agricultura y he tenido diferentes trabajos en este ramo. He vivido en Boardman por trece años, nueve de los cuales han sido en la propiedad donde seguimos hasta ahora que está ubicada fuera de los límites de la ciudad y la cual cuenta con un pozo de agua y este no se comparte con ninguna otra familia.

Desde que compramos esta casa hace casi nueve años nos dijeron los antiguos dueños que el agua no era apta para consumo humano que se podía utilizar pero solo con un filtro de osmosis invertida el cual ya estaba instalado en la casa yo pensaba que con eso era suficiente para consumir el el agua y aunque nos hacían un análisis de la calidad de agua por parte de la compañía DEQ desconocemos los niveles de nitratos y de contaminantes que tenía el agua porque a pesar de ver los resultados no entendíamos por que estos venían escritos en Inglés.

Entonces fue hasta que mi esposa trato de investigar porque ya no nos hacen esas revisiones ella habló con una mujer de DEQ que casualmente habia llegado a tomar una prueba de agua, mi esposa le pregunto que cual era el motivo por el cual no se hacían tan seguido las pruebas de la calidad agua la mujer dijo que sí, que la compañía si seguía haciendo las pruebas a la calidad del agua y mi esposa le pidió un historial de los resultados de las pruebas que se le habían hecho durante los años pasados ya que no se habían recibido los resultados desde el 2014. Mi esposa le dio sus datos para que le pudiera mandar la información a través de un correo electrónico y mi esposa añadió que si esta información podría ser enviada en Espanol. Esta información aún no ha sido recibida. Yo tengo mucha preocupación ya que nosotros estuvimos consumiendo el agua de ese filtro por 7 años y ellos no tomaban prueba de la calidad del agua del filtro. Hace año y medio cambiamos el filtro ya que el anterior dejó de funcionar y con este nuevo filtro nos hicieron nuevas pruebas y estas salieron al límite permitido pero el agua para el resto de la casa tiene arriba de 38 el cual es alarmante porque entiendo que el máximo nivel de nitratos es de 10. Esto nos ocasiona dos problemas.

El principal problema es la salud porque tomamos agua del filtro por siete años al cual no le hicimos una prueba de calidad de agua y eso nos preocupa ya que no sabemos si habrá consecuencias posteriores que afecten nuestra salud. El segundo problema es económico ya que para obtener el agua se genera un consumo de luz y luego tenemos que comprar bultos de sal para suavizar un poco el agua. Hay un desgaste de nuestros electrodomésticos como la lavadora por ejemplo que ya fue reemplazada, las llaves de los baños y el boiler tambien se cambian porque hay mucha corrosión, otro gasto que impacta cada año son las tuberías del sistema de riego porque los minerales se adhieren a estas y el funcionamiento deja de trabajar de manera adecuada que por eso hay que reemplazarlas. También compramos agua embotellada porque el filtro no da un abasto de agua suficiente para las necesidades de la familia.

Nosotros utilizamos el agua para todo uso por ejemplo lavar la ropa, bañarse, en el sistema de riego solo evitamos el consumo de agua en el organismo osea no la tomamos y no la utilizamos para cocinar. Sí han analizado el agua y también nos dieron los resultados. Mi familia y yo hemos firmado la petición confiando en una respuesta positiva por parte de las autoridades ya a la vez, Le pido a las autoridades competentes que nos ayuden a solucionar este problema ya que

al igual que los que viven en la ciudad pagamos impuestos y merecemos el apoyo por nuestra salud y por la salud de la comunidad en general y principalmente de la salud de nuestros niños que son el futuro de nuestra sociedad y no queremos tener una sociedad enferma y decadente. De antemano gracias por el apoyo que nos puedan brindar ya que sabemos que el agua es indispensable para la vida.

Sinceramente,

Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez

11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Alfredo Lopez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Alfredo Lopez, and it is going to be almost 29 years of me living in Morrow County now. I have been a semi truck mechanic for the past 20 years. I have had my property in Boardman for the last 18 years. I have my own well here in the house that we live in. When I purchased the house, I was required to install a filtration system so that we had access to the clean water. After we tested it recently, the nitrate level in our water came at 39.4ppm, which is almost 4 times the contaminant level. Today I share my testimony in hope that it will help me and my community to receive the necessary resources to ensure that we are a safe rural water community.

The first time I noticed there was something wrong with the water quality was when we had to clean the water heater from all the corrosion buildup from the water. My mother has had her house for about 8 years now and every 3 to 4 months I help her clean the water heater. In addition, the tubes in the house get a lot of build up. We have had to replace all the tubing in the house which was a pricey process.

About 2 years ago, I built a home on the property that I had owned for the last 18 years. I currently reside there with my family. However, before I was able to get a loan for the house I had to install a pricey filtration system that was around \$5000. It had to be effective for cleaning the nitrates out of the water. I recently tested my water and the nitrates were almost 4 times the contaminant level. I quickly learned that in order to have an effective filtration system, I have to change the filters out every 4 months. It costs me about \$280 each time I change the filters, so that totals to more than \$1120 of unnecessary expense if I only had clean water out my well.

In May, the Oregon Rural Action team came to me with information about the nitrates. I shared with them a few possible solutions including a special water district, a neighborhood well, or effective water filtering systems. Regardless of the best solution, I think it is important that all pertinent agencies come together on this issue to find the best solution for all the affected people.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Alfredo Lopez
July 11, 2022

Testimony: Debbie Radie
Location: Irrigon, Oregon

My name is Debbie Radie and I have lived and worked in Morrow County for 32 years. I have been an active in the community as a resident and in my professional role, I am Vice President of Operations for Boardman Foods, Inc. As our company websites notes, we are a company located in Boardman, Oregon and committed to our family of customers, growers and employees and sustainable business practices to produce “the best onions in the country.”

I am a well owner and live in Irrigon. In June, when the County declared a water emergency, I became actively engaged in learning more about well safety. I was concerned as were my friends who also have wells on their property. We were concerned and uncertain about where to go to get reliable information in a format that was bilingual and easy to understand. With so many issues related to well ownership it seems obvious to me that state agencies should provide more educational information. I believe this is an important issue that the State can provide. We need clear communication to well owners about well safety and the resources available to them when there is a concern.

If this is a matter of state agency budgets, I would hope that funding for these important services to Oregonians would be considered at the next appropriate meeting of the Emergency Board or legislative session.

I remember years ago that our very good friends and community members, Ray and Carol Michaels, provided information on well safety. She was with OSU Extension and offered information at the county fair and other public events. Is this something that could be used as a model for widespread community outreach and considered for current funding?

As a well owner I recognize that I have personal responsibility for my family’s health and safety. But I do not have access to the best scientific information I need. I so believe in education. Education needs to be widely available to people in our communities. As a community and business leader, I am going to work with others to put together a packet of information and distribute it in the community and I hope we can receive assistance from public health agencies to effectively get the word out.

Sincerely,
Debbie Radie
July 11, 2022

Testimony: Dionicio Hernandez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Dionicio Hernandez, and I have worked in agriculture as a farmworker for 11 years and recently within the last two years, I started working in construction. I have been living in Boardman, Oregon for almost 15 years. I have been living in my current home for almost 10 years now along with my wife and three kids. We are sharing the well on our property with 2 other families. I am sharing my testimony today, with hopes that this will help us get the necessary resources to ensure that we are a safe rural water community .

When they informed us that our nitrates were very high, we found out that our results should be less than 10 in order to be considered safe, and we were at 40, we were very worried. We were told we shouldn't use the water in our house to drink or cook. My wife, as a mother, felt worried when we received our results because the children could drink water from the hose when they were playing outside. She felt disappointed that this could be occurring and not much is being done to protect our families. We know that in this situation, nitrates can cause serious illnesses or one can get sick often and lose work, which has an economic impact apart from our health.

When we first moved into our home back in 2013, it was the first time that I had to deal with a well, I never had one before this. At first I asked around what were the basic things to know about it. Everyone made it clear that you don't drink the water because it's not treated and that is when I started to wonder why. About a year later, I investigated what the function of a well is, and that is when I realized how necessary it is to have the knowledge to know how to maintain it and what to be checking for. It's when I took action to change my system.

In the past we had a main filter that cost us about \$70 . It didn't work as it should, I think due to rusting it stopped working well. I changed the filter but after a year and a half it stopped working. I had to install new plumbing in the whole house due to the harsh water and it cost me about \$700, it took me 2 days to put everything in. That job typically comes out to \$3,000.

Since April, things have been worrisome. That's when our water was tested and we discovered that there was a serious problem in our community. I started talking with my neighbors about why this was happening now. We discussed the possible contaminants such as pesticides from the agriculture here. We started receiving water delivery service which has really helped eliminate an extra cost for us, and we no longer have to worry about going out to buy it regularly which has been nice.

We recently received a new filtration system from the county as well, but things are still worrisome, because we do not know if the filter we received from the county is going to work until we receive the results and see how well it works. We will see how long it lasts to improve the situation. It is critical that we continue to learn more about this issue and figure out what needs to be done to protect members in our community. I urge you to continue to provide resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing, and treatment, until we become a safe rural water community.

Sincerely,
Dionicio Hernandez
August 5, 2022

Testimonio: Dionicio Hernandez

Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Dionicio Hernandez, y he trabajado en agricultura en el condado de Morrow por 11 años y recientemente, en los últimos dos años, comencé a trabajar en la construcción. He estado viviendo en Boardman, Oregón durante casi 15 años. He vivido en el mismo domicilio aquí en Boardman por los últimos 10 años junto con mi esposa y mis tres hijos. Estamos compartiendo el pozo en nuestra propiedad con otras 2 familias. Hoy comparto mi testimonio, con la esperanza de que esto nos ayude a obtener los recursos necesarios para garantizar que seamos una comunidad rural de agua segura.

Cuando nos informaron que nuestros nitratos estaban muy altos, descubrimos que nuestros resultados deberían ser menos de 10 para ser considerados seguros, y estábamos en 40, estábamos muy preocupados. Nos dijeron que no debíamos usar el agua de nuestra casa para beber o cocinar. Mi esposa, como madre, se preocupó cuando recibimos nuestros resultados porque los niños podían beber agua de la manguera cuando estaban jugando afuera. Se sintió decepcionada de que esto pudiera estar ocurriendo y no se está haciendo mucho para proteger a nuestras familias. Sabemos que en esta situación, los nitratos pueden causar enfermedades graves o uno puede enfermarse seguido y perder el trabajo, lo que genera un impacto económico además de nuestra salud.

Cuando nos mudamos a nuestra casa por primera vez en 2013, fue la primera vez que tuve que lidiar con un pozo, nunca antes había tenido uno. Al principio pregunté cuáles eran las cosas básicas que había que saber al respecto a los pozos. Todos dejaron claro que el agua no se bebe porque no está tratada y ahí fue cuando empecé a preguntarme por qué. Aproximadamente un año después, investigué cuál es la función de un pozo, y fue entonces cuando me di cuenta de lo necesario que es tener el conocimiento para saber cómo mantenerlo y qué estar revisando. Fue cuando tomé medidas para cambiar mi sistema.

En el pasado, teníamos un filtro principal que nos costaba alrededor de \$70. No funcionó como debería, creo que por sarro dejó de funcionar bien. Cambié el filtro pero al año y medio dejó de funcionar. Tuve que instalar plomería nueva en toda la casa debido al sarro y me costó alrededor de \$700, me tomó 2 días instalar todo. Ese trabajo generalmente cuesta \$3,000.

Desde abril, las cosas han sido preocupantes. Fue entonces cuando se analizó nuestra agua y descubrimos que había un problema grave en nuestra comunidad. Empecé a hablar con mis vecinos sobre por qué estaba pasando esto ahora. Discutimos los posibles contaminantes como los pesticidas de la agricultura aquí. Comenzamos a recibir el servicio de entrega de agua, lo que realmente nos ayudó a eliminar un costo adicional para nosotros, y ya no tenemos que preocuparnos por salir a comprarla regularmente, lo cual ha sido agradable.

Recientemente también recibimos un nuevo sistema de filtración del condado, pero las cosas siguen siendo preocupantes, porque no sabemos si el filtro que recibimos del condado funcionará hasta que recibamos los resultados y veamos qué tan bien funciona. Veremos cuánto dura para mejorar la situación. Es fundamental que sigamos aprendiendo más sobre este problema y descubramos qué se debe hacer para proteger a los miembros de nuestra comunidad. Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,

Dionicio Hernandez

5 de agosto de 2022

Testimony: Flora Calvillo

Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Flora Calvillo, I am from Boardman Oregon, and I have been living in this area since 1984. I work in the local processing plants, but before that I worked in the fields since I arrived in this country. I am the mother of three sons and one daughter. The youngest is 24 years old. Today I share my testimony with the hope that there will be a change for the good of our community.

Like many other people in this community, we don't know what we are drinking. Recently, my well water was tested and I discovered that my results came back a little higher than it should be, 11.7. They explained to me that nitrates can cause harm to the body, and well, this worries me because, now I don't know if it is because of these nitrates that I have been sick in the past. We use water for everything, it is essential for every home. We use it to bathe, for dishes and to wash our clothes. For cooking I am buying a few gallons per week. This is an extra cost for our home.

It is not fair that the water in our rural homes is not being regulated because the city should know how the residents of the area are doing. They should know how our water is, how the water comes out for those who live here, and offer us the necessary education on this subject, so that we may be more informed and to be able to protect ourselves better.

Having some filters for treatment and the training to maintain them properly will help us. This is also a great help for those that are elderly and struggle to go bring water home regularly. This is why I urgently ask you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Flora Calvillo
July 7, 2022

Testimonio: Flora Calvillo
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Flora Calvillo soy de Boardman Oregon, y tengo desde el 1984 viviendo en esta área. Yo trabajo en las plantas del proceso, pero antes trabajé en el campo desde que llegué a este país. Soy madre de tres hijos y una hija. El más chico tiene 24 años. Hoy comparto mi testimonio con la esperanza de que haya un cambio para el bien de nuestra comunidad.

Como muchas personas más en esta comunidad, no sabemos qué nos tomamos. Ahora que vinieron a mi casa para hacerme la prueba del agua, mis resultados regresaron un poco más altos de lo que debería ser, 11.7. Me explicaron que los nitratos pueden causar daño en el organismo, y pues esto me preocupa porque, ahora no se si debido a esto, me he enfermado antepasado. De hecho, el agua lo usamos para todo, es esencial para cada hogar. Lo utilizamos para bañar, para los trastes y la ropa. Para la comida estoy comprando unos galones para cocinar cada semana. Esto viene siendo un costo extra para nuestro hogar.

No es justo que no se esté regulando el agua de nuestros hogares rurales porque la ciudad debe saber cómo están los residentes de la área. Deberían saber cómo está su agua, como sale el agua para el que vive aquí, y ofrecernos esa educación sobre este tema, para estar más informados y poder protegernos mejor.

Teniendo unos filtros para tratamiento y la capacitación para estarlos manteniendo como se debe, nos ayudará, y luego también como si uno ya tiene más de edad, más de años y no puede arrimar su agua. Es por esto que les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Flora Calvillo
7 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Froilan Rodriguez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Froilan Rodriguez, and I have worked in agriculture in Morrow County since 1993. I now own a small business handling my cattle. I have lived in Boardman for 16 years with my wife, and 3 daughters. We do not share a well with neighbors, I had it built and it's 128 feet deep. Fortunately, we are one of the families in this area that did not have high nitrate results, 3.85. It seems that so far, our filter works fine. Today I share my testimony, hoping that this will help us obtain the necessary resources to ensure that we are a safe rural water community.

About 7 years ago I installed a filtration system for our house. We have a whole house filtration system. I decided to install a filtration system because my wife insisted the water wasn't clean. She even went to the laundromat because the washing machine that we had at home did not clean well due to the water. The filter we have cost me \$6,500 in cash. There was an option to buy it in payments, but it was more expensive for a total of \$8,000. They had told us that with this filter, we could drink the water, and for the first two years, we consumed it. Then we realized that it was not good but we did not necessarily understand why. Back when we had first installed the filter, the company where we bought it came by regularly, every 4-6 months, they contacted us to come and change the filter. It was about \$250 each time they came to service it, but recently they haven't come in over a year.

In June, one of the neighbors came to invite me to a community meeting about this situation. That's where we knew we had to have the water tested. We were scared because we didn't even know what it was about, we began to hear about the effects it could have on our health. We worried about the children because sometimes they happen to drink water from the hose, or from the tap because they don't want to go to the gallon. What is most concerning is that we do not know to what degree it can affect our health. I felt good when I received the results, honestly I expected worse with what I had heard from some neighbors.

At the end of the day we are in the dark, if it were not for that neighbor who went from door to door informing about the meeting, we might not know what was happening. Nothing is heard in the Spanish media. We only know that we shouldn't drink the water, but we do not understand why. We should have access to this information for our own good, to protect our families, and to prevent more serious problems in the future.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Froilan Rodriguez
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Froilan Rodriguez
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Froilan Rodriguez, y he trabajado en agricultura en el condado de Morrow desde el año 1993. Ahora soy dueño de mi propio negocio manejando mi ganado. Actualmente somos 5 en mi hogar, tengo 3 hijas y mi esposa, ya llevamos 16 años viviendo en Boardman y precisamente en este domicilio. No estamos compartiendo el pozo, yo lo mande hacer y mide 128 pies de profundidad. Afortunadamente, nosotros somos unas de las familias en esta área que no tuvo resultados altos de los nitratos, fue un 3.85. Parece que hasta el momento, nuestro filtro funciona bien. Hoy comparto mi testimonio, con la esperanza de que esto nos ayude a obtener los recursos necesarios para garantizar que seamos una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Hace más o menos 7 años cuando puse el filtro en nuestra casa. Nosotros tenemos un sistema de filtración para toda la casa. Yo decidí poner un sistema de filtración por mi señora, y miraba que estaba sucia el agua y hasta iba a lavar a la lavandería porque la lavadora que teníamos en las casa no limpiaba bien debido al agua. El filtro que tenemos me salio en \$6500 en efectivo habia opcion de comprarlo en pagos, pero salia mas caro en \$8000. Nos habían dicho que con este filtro, si se podía tomar el agua, y por los primeros dos años, si la consumimos, pero luego nosotros miramos que no estaba buena y no entendiamos porque. Cuando recién pusimos el filtro, la compañía donde lo compramos, pasaba regularmente cada 4-6 meses, ellos se comunicaban con nosotros para venir a cambiar el filtro. Eran más o menos \$250 cada vez que venían a dar el servicio, pero recientemente no han venido en más de un año.

En Junio, uno de los vecinos vino a invitarme a una junta comunitaria sobre esta situación. Ahí fue donde supimos que teníamos que mandar hacer la prueba al agua. Estábamos asustados porque no sabíamos ni de que se trataba, empezamos a oír de los efectos que podía tener en la salud, y pues uno se preocupa por los niños porque a veces se les ocurre tomar agua de la manguera, o de la llave por no ir agarrar del galón. No sabemos a qué grado puede afectar a la salud. Me sentí bien cuando recibí los resultados, honestamente yo esperaba algo peor con lo que había escuchado de algunos vecinos.

Al final del día nosotros estamos en lo oscuro, si no fuera por ese vecino que andaba de puerta a puerta informando de la junta, tal vez no supiéramos lo que estaba pasando. No se escucha nada en los medios de comunicación en español. Solamente sabemos que no se debe tomar el agua pero no entendemos el porqué. Deberíamos tener acceso a esta información por nuestro bien estar, para proteger a nuestras familias, y para evitar problemas más graves en el futuro.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Froilan Rodriguez
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: James Ringel
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is James Ringel, I am retired, I spent 28 years working as a heavy duty railroad diesel mechanic. I have lived at my current address in Boardman, Oregon for the past 15 years. When I bought this home, the nitrates were a concern, it's been over a decade now and it continues to be a problem. Today I share my testimony, hoping that this will help us obtain the necessary resources to ensure that we are a safe rural water community.

Recently in the news, I started seeing more and more articles coming out about the nitrates. The county started testing the wells to see if we had a problem. Next thing I knew my neighbor was letting me know how serious this could be for our health if we were drinking the water, she helped me think about moments where I actually do consume the water. I thought I was fine because I usually drink bottled water, but when my results came back high, a 27.3, I thought about it more and considered other factors.

I used to believe that the water I used for everything was fine. I buy bottled water regularly for drinking purposes. I use the tap water to make ice cubes once in a while and I use tap water for cooking such as making spaghetti. I always thought it was fine since I have an osmosis system, but recently the test results proved otherwise. Turns out my system isn't functioning properly.

I didn't realize my water was so bad. I have been diagnosed with skin cancer and I struggle with a lot of stomach issues. My doctor recommends I drink a lot of water. I drink 10 bottles of water a day. I always feel bloated and not right, but I keep getting told to drink water. However, since I drink so much water, every now and then, I run out. So I just used the tap water when I was out. I have a bad back so if someone can't bring me water, I thought the Brita filter was sufficient but then I learned that it doesn't help with nitrates. Now I wonder if this is why I have so many problems with my health. I hear that there is some extra efforts being done to ensure the Hispanics in our community know what's going on, but more needs to be done for the community as a whole. I pay attention to the news, and I still don't fully understand what needs to be done.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Jim Ringel
July 11, 2022

Testimony: Jose Zavala

Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Jose Zavala, and I have worked in agriculture here in Morrow County for 20 years. I have been living in Boardman, Oregon for the last 35 years. I have lived at the same address here in Boardman for almost 10 years along with my wife and three daughters. We are currently not sharing a well with other families due to a problem we had in the past. I hope that by sharing my testimony, it helps so that other families do not have to continue having problems with their well water, which has been a cost that impacts our lives in relation to our health, but also economically.

When I originally bought this house, I was sharing the well with neighbors. And at that time, the well was shared with three houses. There was a problem with the pump and we had to turn off the water to fix that problem. We lasted three days without water service. We decided to have a well dug for us separately, and at that time, it cost us about \$15,000. During this time we had to drink water from the gallon and I couldn't water my yard either.

We had never heard of nitrates, we had never had our water tested until the neighbors started talking to me about this problem. It turns out that we have a high level of nitrates, we received a result of 27.5, almost three times higher than it should be.

I feel bad because we are spending our money on water to drink, it would be better to be able to get water from the well to drink, then we would save on that cost. We are also concerned that the water could have harmed us in some way. We do not consume this water, not even for cooking, but in any case one feels in doubt that this may be happening in our community.

We are grateful to be receiving the free water delivery service. Before we were paying for this service, and now the county is helping us with this while they find a solution. I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Jose Zavala
July 7, 2022

Testimonio: Jose Zavala
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Jose Zavala, y he trabajado en agricultura en el condado de Morrow por 20 años. He estado viviendo en Boardman, Oregón por los últimos 35 años. He vivido en el mismo domicilio aquí en Boardman por casi 10 años junto con mi esposa y mis tres hijas. Nosotros no estamos compartiendo un pozo de agua con otras familias debido a un problema que tuvimos. Espero que al compartir mi testimonio, ayude para que otras familias no tengan que continuar teniendo problemas con su agua, que viene siendo un costo que impacta nuestras vidas en relación a nuestra salud pero también económicamente.

Cuando yo compre esta casa, estaba compartiendo el pozo de agua con la con la vecina. Y en ese tiempo, el pozo se compartía con tres casas. Hubo un problema con la pompa y tuvimos que apagar el agua para arreglar ese problema. Duramos tres días sin servicio de agua. Nosotros decidimos mandar hacer un pozo para nosotros, y en ese tiempo, pues nos salió como en unos \$15,000. Durante este tiempo tuvimos que tomar agua del galón y no pude regar mi yarda tampoco.

Nosotros nunca habíamos escuchado sobre lo de los nitratos, nunca habíamos hecho prueba del agua hasta que los vecinos empezaron a hablar conmigo sobre este problema. Resulta que nosotros tenemos un alto nivel de nitratos, nos llegaron los resultados de un 27.5, casi tres veces más alto de lo que debería de estar.

Se siente uno mal porque, estamos gastando en agua para tomar, sería mejor poder agarrar agua del pozo para tomar, entonces se ahorraría uno de ese costo. También estamos con la preocupación de que nos haya hecho daño en una forma. Nosotros no consumimos esta agua, ni para cocinar, pero de todo modos se siente uno en duda, que pueda estar ocurriendo esto en nuestra comunidad.

Estamos agradecidos por estar recibiendo el servicio de entrega de agua gratuita. Antes nosotros estábamos pagando por este servicio y ahora el condado nos está ayudando con esto mientras encuentran una solución.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Jose Zavala
7 de julio de 2022

Testimony: María Elena Martínez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is María Elena Martínez. I have been living in Boardman for the past 36 years. I am a mother of 6, and I live with my husband. Unfortunately, last year I had two miscarriages. Now, hindsight, I wonder if the nitrates in the water caused me to have this problem, because I used to drink the water and even cooked with the water since living here. No one had ever warned me about the danger that existed. Had I known, I would have not never drank this water or used it for cooking and perhaps what happened to me, losing my pregnancies would never have happened. I was unaware of this information. Maybe if I knew the information, if I had had this information before, I wouldn't have done it. That is why I am sharing my testimony, I don't want this to happen to other people. We need clean, safe drinking water in our community, for us, for our children. We must prevent other people from getting sick or experiencing serious illness and tragedies due to the contaminated water.

I recently learned about the nitrates in the water because just this year they started testing the water in our wells. That's when we discovered that our results came back high, a 26, and we learned about the effects it could have on our health. I started thinking about my symptoms back when I was pregnant, before the miscarriages, I had so many headaches. Could this be the reason?

There is an urgent need to better inform our community. A lot is needed to make sure this doesn't happen to more families. Many of us, well the majority here from my community, have small children. These children are vulnerable when they go outside to play, they get thirsty and decide to drink from the hose, they do not know what they are drinking or what type of water they are playing with. Something must be done to protect our community, to protect the children. I urge you to continue to provide resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing, and treatment, until we become a safe rural water community.

Sincerely,
Maria Elena Martinez
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: María Elena Martínez
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es María Elena Martínez. He estado viviendo en Boardman durante los últimos 36 años. Soy madre de 6 hijos y vivo con mi esposo. Desafortunadamente, el año pasado tuve dos abortos espontáneos. Ahora, en retrospectiva, me pregunto si los nitratos en el agua me causaron este problema, porque antes yo bebía el agua e incluso cocinaba con el agua desde que empecé a vivir aquí. Nunca hubo nadie que me había advertido del peligro que existía. Si lo hubiera sabido, nunca hubiera bebido esta agua ni la hubiera usado para cocinar y tal vez nunca hubiera sucedido lo que me pasó a mí, perder mis embarazos. Desconocía esta información. Tal vez si hubiera sabido la información, si hubiera tenido esta información antes, no lo hubiera hecho. Por eso estoy compartiendo mi testimonio, no quiero que esto le pase a otras personas. Necesitamos agua potable limpia y segura en nuestra comunidad, para nosotros, para nuestros niños. Debemos evitar que otras personas se enfermen o sufran enfermedades graves y tragedias como la mía, a causa del agua contaminada.

Hace poco me enteré de los nitratos en el agua porque recién este año comenzaron a analizar el agua de nuestros pozos. Fue entonces cuando descubrimos que nuestros resultados eran altos, un 26, y nos enteramos de los efectos que podría tener en nuestra salud. Empecé a pensar en mis síntomas cuando estaba embarazada, antes de los abortos espontáneos, tenía tantos dolores de cabeza. ¿Podría ser ésta la razón?

Hay una necesidad urgente de informar mejor a nuestra comunidad. Se necesita mucho para asegurarse de que esto no le suceda a más familias. Muchos de nosotros, bueno la mayoría aquí de mi comunidad, tenemos niños pequeños. Estos niños son vulnerables cuando salen a jugar, les da sed y deciden beber de la manguera, no saben lo que están bebiendo ni con qué tipo de agua están jugando. Se debe hacer algo para proteger a nuestra comunidad, para proteger a los niños.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Maria Elena Martinez
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Maria Mendoza
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Maria Mendoza, I have been a member of the Boardman community for more or less 27 years. There are six members that makeup my family but for now there are only three of us in the house. The house has a water well and we do not share it with other families, we own the property. We have known for a long time that the water from the well here was not good, because since we bought the house the former owners told us that the water was not good for drinking or cooking, so what we did was go with our relatives to bring drinking water from the city in containers to be able to cook and to drink, we have always bought gallon or bottled water and we continue to do so to this day.

Speaking of one of the problems that we have had in the house in reference to the water, it is with the system that we have that softens the water, which worked with salt, but for a long time we have had it broken and we have not known who to call so that they can fix it. After it broke down we noticed the difference that the water was worse, for example when bathing the hair is stiffer and that is something that is noticeable and annoying.

The impact of the bad water that is in our house is that we always have to go to the city to fetch water for cooking with our relatives, carry it around, spend gas, and always buy bottled water to be able to drink it. This was more difficult during the time of the pandemic because we couldn't buy that much water at one time, stores restricted us to being able to carry only one gallon or one pack of water.

We have not installed any filter to help us improve the quality of the water. I remember that when we were here maybe around five years ago, some vendors were offering filters but we didn't put them up because the cost was \$5000.00 and the truth was that at that time it was very expensive, it was impossible for us to have that money, the vendors took water from the well and the house and they showed us that the water came out with dirt, but at that time they didn't tell us about nitrates. We did not realize the high levels of nitrates in our community's water until about two months ago when the people from the city came to check the homes to test the water. They also called us to give us the results of the test and water quality. And they have also been communicating with me to give me information and help us to be able to receive free water that is being offered directly to our home by the Desert Springs company every two weeks.

This help and information has been satisfactory. I have spoken with some relatives and neighbors who also live outside the city with whom we share the same problem, thank God we have not had problems with health that are related to water but we do care about the new generations, and about the children that could affect them when bathing them because they are in contact with water.

If there was a solution or more resources it would be better for us, we would also like us to have more information in Spanish. I believe that if we all pay taxes we have the right to have clean and healthy water. My family and I want to become a safe water community.

Sincerely,
Mary Mendoza
August 8, 2022

Testimonio: Maria Mendoza
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Maria Mendoza, soy miembro de la comunidad de Boardman, desde hace más o menos 27 años, somos seis los integrantes de mi familia pero por ahora solo estamos tres en la casa. La casa cuenta con un pozo de agua y no lo compartimos con otras familias, somos dueños de la propiedad. Desde hace mucho tiempo nosotros sabemos que el agua del pozo que está aquí no era buena, pues desde que compramos la casa los antiguos dueños nos dijeron que el agua no era buena ni para tomar ni para cocinar, así que lo que nosotros hacíamos era de acudir con nuestros parientes a traer agua potable de la ciudad en contenedores para poder cocinar y para tomar nosotros siempre hemos comprado el agua de galón o de botella y eso hasta la fecha lo continuamos haciendo.

Hablando de uno de los problemas que hemos tenido en la casa en referencia con el agua es con el sistema que tenemos que suaviza el agua el cual funcionaba con la sal, pero por mucho tiempo lo hemos tenido descompuesto y no hemos sabido a quién llamar para que puedan arreglarlo, después de que se descompuso notamos la diferencia de que el agua estaba peor por ejemplo al bañarse el pelo queda más tieso y eso es algo que se nota y molesta.

El impacto que ha tenido el agua mala que está en nuestra casa es que siempre hay que ir a traer el agua para cocinar a la ciudad con los parientes, andar cargando, gastar gasolina y siempre estar comprando agua de botella para poder tomarla. Esto fue más difícil aún durante el tiempo de la pandemia porque no podíamos comprar tanta agua a la vez, las tiendas nos restringieron a poder llevar solo un galón o un paquete de agua. Nosotros no hemos instalado ningún filtro que nos ayude a mejorar la calidad del agua.

Recuerdo que cuando teníamos aquí tal vez alrededor de cinco años andaban unos vendedores ofreciendo filtros pero no lo pusimos porque el costo era de \$5000.00dls y la verdad en ese tiempo era carísimo, imposible nosotros no teníamos ese dinero, los vendedores tomaron agua del pozo de la casa y nos mostraron que el agua salía con tierra, pero en aquel tiempo ellos no nos hablaron de los nitratos. Nos dimos cuenta de los altos niveles de nitratos que hay en el agua de nuestra comunidad hasta hace más o menos dos meses cuando vinieron los de la ciudad a revisar los hogares a hacer la prueba del agua ellos nos llamaron también para darnos los resultados de la calidad del agua. y se han estado comunicando conmigo también para darme información y nos ayudado a poder recibir de manera gratuita el agua que se está ofreciendo a domicilio por parte de la compañía Desert Springs cada dos semanas, esta ayuda e información ha sido satisfactoria. He hablado con algunos familiares y vecinos que también viven fuera de la ciudad con los compartimos el mismo problema, gracias a Dios no hemos tenido problemas de salud que se relacionen con el agua pero si nos preocupamos por las nuevas generaciones, y por los niños que les pueda afectar al bañarlos porque ellos están en contacto con el agua.

Si hubiera una solución o más recursos estaríamos mejor, también nos gustaria que tuvieramos mas informacion en Espanol. Considero que si todos pagamos impuestos tenemos el derecho de tener agua limpia y saludable. Mi familia y yo nos hemos unido a la petición ya que queremos convertirnos en una comunidad que goce del agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Maria Mendoza
8 de agosto de 2022

Testimony: Mayra Colin
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Mayra Colin. My parents, Carlos and Maria Colin, along with my siblings and cousins, brought us to live in Boardman back in 1998. We have been Boardman residents ever since and live in the same home we came to back then. I lived outside of Boardman for a short time while I was in college but after I finished school I decided to move back here because this is where I want to be. Here I feel at home. Right now in my parents' home, in our home, we make up three generations; my parents, my three children and myself. This year, my children turn 10, 9, and 7 years old. We are a united family and we spend a lot of time together

I currently work at Community Counseling Solutions right here at Boardman. I started working there in 2011 and I hope to continue there for many more years. My parents have a long history of working in agriculture and harvesting in these areas since they arrived in the 1980's.

These past few years have not been easy for the residents of our community due to many issues including the pandemic, the vaccine controversy, job losses, school and business closures, the May 2020 wind storm, smoke from wildfires in September 2020, the snow storms in the last three winters and many other things. This year it could be said that the concerns had subsided until we received the news of the contamination of the water in our home and the home of many people present here. I can't say for sure if I suffer or if my family suffers from any symptoms related to the effects of high levels of water nitrates. But what I can say with certainty is that we felt fear and concern when we received the news.

As a child I used to hear: don't drink that water because it's not good. Those are words I began to say to my children. Don't drink that water son, it's not good. But now, I have to replace the word good with the word harm. Now I have to say, don't drink that water because it hurts you. I have to say, don't drink that water, it's contaminated. Can you imagine? Water, the main resource necessary for us to exist and that we should have for our survival, is now contaminated by high levels of nitrate. The water, which should be clean and pure, now runs through the pipes of our contaminated houses. It comes out of the faucets in our homes, dirty, to the level that it risks our health. I fully understand that there is a long process from when it falls from the sky until it enters our body, but how sad that due to lack of attention from someone or something, now we have this concern and we feel fear.

My family, like my neighbors, has tried to limit the consumption of that water. My parents and neighbors have spent a lot of money on bottled water weekly, have spent a lot of money on water jugs for years, and have installed expensive water filters that only worked a few years, this being the reason our water test resulted in a 36.5. All this has been too expensive and I don't think it's fair or sustainable to have to continue doing it for years and years to come. What we need is safe water in our homes and we need it now. Our politicians need to help us find a long-term solution, like creating a water district where the water goes through an efficient and safe filtration system. Access to safe water is important to the well-being of our community. It is important to my parents, to my children, to my neighbors, and to all of us here today, because we are all part of this Boardman community. Everyone is contributing to this growing community that is critical to Morrow County and the state of Oregon.

I urge you to continue to provide resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing, and treatment, until we become a safe rural water community.

Sincerely,
Mayra Colin
August 8, 2022

Testimonio: Mayra Colin
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Mayra Colin. Mis padres, Carlos y Maria Colin, junto con mis hermanos y primos, nos trajeron a vivir a Boardman en 1998. Desde entonces somos residentes de Boardman y vivimos en el mismo hogar al que llegamos en aquel entonces. Yo viví fuera de Boardman muy poco tiempo mientras estudiaba pero después de terminar el colegio decidí regresar a vivir aquí porque aquí es donde quiero estar. Aquí me siento en casa. Ahorita en el hogar de mis padres, en nuestro hogar, formamos tres generaciones; mis padres, mis tres hijos y yo. En este año, mis hijos cumplen 10, 9, y 7 años. Somos una familia unida y compartimos mucho tiempo juntos

Actualmente trabajo en Community Counseling Solutions aquí mismo en Boardman. Empecé a trabajar ahí en el 2011 y espero seguir ahí por muchos años más. Mis padres tienen un largo historial de trabajo en la agricultura y la cosecha en estas áreas desde que llegaron en los años 80.

Estos ultimas años no han sido fácil para los residentes de nuestra comunidad por muchas cuestiones incluyendo la pandemia, la controversia con la vacuna, pérdidas de trabajo, cierre de escuelas y negocios, la tormenta de aire del Mayo 2020, el humo por las lumbres forestales en Septiembre 2020, las tormentas de nieve en los últimos tres inviernos y varios cosas mas. Este año se podría decir que las preocupaciones habían aminorado hasta que nos llegó la noticia de la contaminación del agua en nuestro hogar y el hogar de muchas personas aquí presentes. Yo no puedo decir con certeza si padezco o si mi familia padece de algún síntoma relacionado con los efectos de los altos niveles de nitratos de agua. Pero lo que puedo decir con certeza es que sentimos miedo y preocupación al recibir la noticia.

Yo de niña escuchaba: no tomes esa agua por que no esta buena. Esas son palabras empecé a decirles a mis hijos. No tomes esa agua hijo, no esta buena. Pero ahora, tengo que reemplazar la palabra buena, con la palabra daño. Ahora tengo que decir, no tomes esa agua por que te hace daño. Tengo que decir, no tomes esa agua, está contaminada. Se pueden imaginar? El agua, el recurso principal, necesario para para poder existir y que deberíamos tener para nuestra supervivencia, ahora está contaminada por altos niveles de nitrato. El agua, que debería ser limpia y pura, ahorita corre por la tubería de nuestras casas contaminada. Sale de las llaves de nuestros hogares, sucia, al nivel de corremos riesgos de salud. Entiendo perfectamente que existe un largo proceso desde que cae del cielo hasta que entra en nuestro organismo, pero que triste que por falta de atención de alguien o algo, ahora tenemos esta preocupación y sentimos miedo.

Mi familia, ya sea al igual o a diferencia de algunos de mis vecinos, hemos intentado limitar el consumo de esa agua. Mis padres y mis vecinos, han gastado mucho dinero en agua embotellada semanalmente, han gastado mucho dinero en garrafrones de agua por años, y han instalado costosos filtros de agua que solo funcionaron unos cuantos años, y esto viene siendo la la razón que recibimos un resultado de 36.5. Todo esto ha salido demasiado caro y no creo justo ni sostenible tener que seguir haciéndolo por años y años más. Lo que necesitamos es agua segura en nuestros hogares y la necesitamos ahorita. Nuestros políticos necesitan ayudarnos a encontrar una solución a largo plazo, como crear un distrito de agua donde el agua pase por un sistema de filtración eficiente y seguro. El acceso al agua segura es importante para el bienestar de nuestra comunidad. Es importante para mis padres, para mis hijos, para mis vecinos, y todos los que estamos aquí presentes, porque todos formamos parte de esta comunidad de Boardman. Todos

están contribuyendo a esta comunidad que va creciendo y es fundamental para el condado de Morrow County y el estado de Oregon.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,

Mayra Colin

8 de agosto de 2022

Testimony: Mike Brandt
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Mike Brandt and I have served in the Marine Corps. My wife and I have been residents of Morrow County for the last 25 years. Since I purchased my home I have been aware of the contaminated water. In order to get my mortgage I had to install a water filtration system so that I had access to clean water. I recently had my water tested and the nitrate levels are at 34.5, which are more than 3 times the contaminant level. Today I share my testimony, hoping that this will help us obtain the necessary resources to ensure that we are a safe rural water community.

About 25 years ago, I was forced to pay additionally for a water filtering system just so that I can get approved for my mortgage. It was a frustrating experience having to come up with an additional \$1500 to get a system that would clean contaminated water that other people are responsible for causing. In addition to the system, it was around \$100-200 to replace the filters each time they were serviced. They plugged up frequently so that the people that would come to service them eventually stopped coming and disappeared.

The water filter system was an expensive and frustrating experience that we decided to get a water delivery system with Desert Springs so that we had access to safe water. I still had to pay for the service, but at least I know the water is potable and safe to use. I also use the clean water that I buy for my animals since I don't know how nitrates impacts them.

From all the time I have been here, it is upsetting to see that not much has been done to find a long term solution. I hope that we as a community can have access to high quality water filters that will be effective with the high contaminated water. I hope that I am here to see the end of this water contamination crisis and we as a community can come together to find a long term solution.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Mike Brandt
July 11, 2022

Testimony: Orlando Velazquez
Location: Hermiston, Oregon

My name is Orlando Velazquez. I am 17 years old and I live in Hermiston Oregon, I am a student and I work in the agriculture field, and also from time to time I do yard work. My mom also works in Boardman agriculture. As a member of this community, I share my thoughts and observations with hopes that it can help the community that is directly impacted.

I used to work in Boardman on a ranch, and at times I saw that the water came out with dirt or some sediment when we would wash the cars. I think it's necessary to ensure that people with wells have access to safe drinking water. There are so many families who live outside the city limits and we need to ensure that safe drinking water is being provided to them. Whether that be a treatment system that helps make the water clean or by providing filters that are effective for human consumption.

I think it would be important to make good use of social media networks to share information regarding the nitrates issue in order to generate an impact on the community because right now I think there are few people who like to read and if you see something interesting or important on the phone, it is easy to review it, get informed, and share it. I think it is also necessary to have the information available in Spanish for our Hispanic community.

It is necessary to be sending letters in Spanish or making calls in their language and also, like when they are going to sell a house, to share information about nitrates. Our people deserve to be spoken to with honesty on what is going on in their community.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Orlando Velazquez
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Orlando Velazquez
Ubicación: Hermiston, Oregón

Mi nombre es Orlando Velazquez tengo 17 años y vivo en Hermiston Oregon, soy estudiante y trabajo en el área de la agricultura y también de vez en cuando limpio yardas, mi mamá también trabaja en la agricultura de Boardman. Como miembro de esta comunidad, comparto mis opiniones y observaciones con la esperanza que ayude a la comunidad que está directamente impactada.

Yo trabajaba en Boardman en el rancho y en algunos momentos vi que el agua salía como con tierra o cuando lavamos los carros, Yo creo que lo mejor sería que se diera el agua potable a las familias que viven fuera de la ciudad que manden el agua del centro y que esto llegue a las orillas de la ciudad que haya un sistema que ayude a que el agua sea agua limpia. que se utilice la tecnología ya que estamos en pleno 2022 para poder usar en el tratamiento del agua por ejemplo filtros que sean efectivos para el consumo humano.

Pienso que sería importante hacer un buen uso de las redes sociales para compartir información y que esto genere un impacto en la comunidad porque ahorita pienso que ya es poca la gente que le gusta leer y si tu ves algo interesante o importante en el teléfono, es fácil de revisarlo y llenarse de información y compartirlo. Pienso que también es necesario tener la información disponible en español para nuestra comunidad hispana.

Es necesario estar mandando cartas en español o haciendo llamadas en su idioma y también como cuando van a vender una casa que se comparta la información sobre los nitratos. Nuestra gente merece que uno les hable principalmente con honestidad en la actualidad.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Orlando Velazquez
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Paula Lopez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Paula Lopez, I live in Boardman and I'm about to complete 26 years old living here. I don't work but I'm a stay at home mom, so my job is a 24/7 job with no pay. I live with my husband and my two daughters. Aside from supporting my own home, I am also providing a lot of support for my mother-in-law, and she is the reason I am sharing this testimony with you. She is elderly, and she needs our support to maintain her house. She has a water well and recently we received news that her water has high levels of nitrates. Her well was tested and the result was a 40.1, that's four times what it should be based on the information we received at the community meeting.

In my mother-in-law's house, water is used in various ways. We use it to wash the dishes, the clothes, to water the plants, the yard, and to give water to animals like chickens and dogs. We know that the water from the well should not be consumed, because there may be bacteria and other things that cause harm such as nitrates, for which we try to take precautions, for example I put chlorine in the soap to wash the dishes and when bathing, my mother in law has to disinfect the tub with chlorine as well with the intention of hopefully minimizing the risk that the water contains.

My mother-in-law has been living in that house with the well for seven years and we have had to buy water for consumption, before we had to buy water directly from the store and a five-gallon jug would cost us seven dollars. Right now, my mother-in-law has been out of work for about five months and that income does not arrive and thus makes basic costs such as food and water more difficult to obtain. These are basic necessities, but when you buy for example three or four of those jugs per week, it's a cost of 28 dollars, which adds up for the entire month. Water is essential, it is being used all the time.

I think it would be a little safer with a filter, because I imagine that the bacteria in the water would be minimized. In fact, it is necessary for all those people who live in that rural area for the health and well-being of the people who live in that area and for the children and the elderly.

Therefore, I urgently ask you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Paula Lopez
July 8, 2022

Testimonio: Paula Lopez
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Paula Lopez, vivo en Boardman y voy a cumplir 26 años viviendo aquí, yo no trabajo pero soy ama de casa, así es que mi trabajo es un trabajo de 24 horas siete días a la semana, y sin pago. Vivo con mi esposo y mis dos hijas. Aparte de mantener mi propio hogar, también le apoyó mucho a mi suegra, y ella es la razón por la que comparto este testimonio con ustedes. Ella es grande de edad, y necesita nuestro apoyo para darle mantenimiento a la casa de ella, ella tiene un pozo de agua y recientemente recibimos noticia que su agua tiene altos niveles de nitratos. Le hicieron la prueba y el resultado fue un 40.1, eso es cuatro veces más de lo que debería estar basado en la información que recibimos en la junta comunitaria.

En la casa de mi suegra, se utiliza el agua en varias formas. La usamos para lavar los trastes, la ropa, para regar las plantas, la yarda, y para darle agua a los animales como las gallinas y los perros. Sabemos que el agua del pozo no se debe de tomar, porque puede haber bacteria y otras cosas que hacen daño como los nitratos, por el cual, tratamos de tomar precauciones, por ejemplo le pongo cloro al jabón para lavar los trastes y cuando se baña ella tiene que desinfectar la tina y con cloro con la intención de ojala minimizar el riesgo con contiene el agua.

Mi suegra tiene siete años viviendo en esa casa con el pozo y hemos comprado el agua, antes teníamos que estar comprando el agua directo de la tienda y el galón de cinco galones cuesta siete dólares. En este momento mi suegra tiene como cinco meses sin trabajo y esa entrada de dinero no llega y pues hace que los costos básicos como el lonche y el agua sean más difíciles de obtener. Son alimentos necesarios pero cuando compra uno por ejemplo tres galones o cuatro por semana que es lo que se está gastando ya es un coste de 28 dólares, el agua es esencial, todo el tiempo se está utilizando.

Yo pienso que estaría un poco más seguro con un filtro, porque me imagino que se minimizaran las bacterias en el agua. En realidad es necesario para todas esas personas que viven en esa área rural por la salud y el bienestar de las personas que viven y en esa área para los niños y los mayores.

Por eso, les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Paula Lopez
8 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Reyes Calvillo
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Reyes Calvillo. I live with my wife and daughter in the Boardman community. At the moment I work in construction. We have lived here for ten years, we own the house and this house has a well which is shared with two other families.

We always knew that the water was bad, since the time we have lived here and we have taken precautions to avoid consuming the water from the well, we have also noticed that the water stains a lot, for example, it leaves cars with white spots and causes corrosion in the surfaces. The faucets in the bathrooms and the sink, and even the boiler feels like a rock due to the mineral build up on these surfaces. Changing these faucets as well as having to buy water for cooking and drinking generates an economic impact on the family. I have been able to talk to my two brothers, they also have a well in their houses and they both told me that the water was bad, the results I had were 27.5. That is very high since they explained to me that the maximum level of nitrates is 10 and theirs are similar to my results. About 10 years ago one of my brothers dug his water well. I don't have more details about how or where and who did that analysis, but the analysis found that the water was fit for human consumption.

In all these years we had not installed any filters in the house, but until a few weeks ago when a state of emergency was declared here in the community, they began to give us free water and then they delivered some filters, that's when I installed them. One thing I would like to know is if my filter is working and how to make an assessment of whether or not the water is drinkable and of good quality. I feel grateful for all the attention, information and help of those who have contacted me in this case, the Department of Health and the ORA team, since everything has been in the language that I understand and that Spanish is my language and I would like that to continue. My family and support our community being a community that has clean and safe water.

Sincerely,
Reyes Calvillo
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Reyes Calvillo
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Reyes Calvillo yo vivo con mi esposa y mi hija en la comunidad de Boardman, por el momento trabajo en la construcción. Hemos vivido aquí desde hace diez años, somos dueños de la casa y esta casa tiene un pozo el cual es compartido con otras dos familias.

Nosotros siempre supimos que el agua estaba mal, desde el tiempo que hemos vivido aquí y nosotros hemos tomado precauciones evitando consumir el agua del pozo, también hemos notado que el agua mancha mucho por ejemplo los carros los deja con mancha blancas y hace corrosión en las llaves de los baños y el fregadero, también en el boiler ya que este se llena como de roca por los minerales. El cambiarlos así como eso de tener que comprar agua para cocinar y para tomar genera un impacto económico en la familia. He podido hablar con mis dos hermanos, ellos también tienen un pozo en sus casas y los dos me dijeron que el agua estaba mala los resultados que yo tuve fueron de 27.5 eso es muy elevado ya que me explicaron que el máximo nivel de nitratos es de 10 y los de ellos se asemejan a mis resultados. Hace como 10 años uno de mis hermanos hizo su pozo de agua, no tengo más detalles de cómo o en donde y quien hizo ese análisis pero en el análisis salió que el agua si era apta para el consumo humano.

Nosotros en todos estos años no habíamos instalado ningún filtro en la casa, pero hasta hace algunas semanas cuando se declaró estado de emergencia aquí en la comunidad fue que nos empezaron a dar el agua gratuita y después hicieron entrega de algunos filtros y a mi familia y a mi nos tocó recibir uno, fue cuando yo lo instalé. Algo que me gustaría saber es si mi filtro está funcionando y cómo hacer una evaluación de si el agua se puede consumir o no y si esta es de buena calidad. Comentó que me siento agradecido por toda la atención, información y ayuda de los que me han contactado en este caso el Departamento de Salud y el equipo de ORA ya que todo ha sido en el lenguaje que yo entiendo y que es mi Idioma el Español y me gustaría que eso continuara. Finalizó diciendo que mi familia y yo hemos firmado la petición ya que nosotros apoyamos a que nuestra comunidad sea una comunidad que tenga agua limpia y segura.

Sinceramente,
Reyes Calvillo
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Ricardo Garcia Lopez
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Ricardo Garcia Lopez, I have lived in Boardman since last year, and there are 7 people renting the property where I currently reside. We all work as drivers in the fields. My intention with sharing my testimony is that hopefully a solution can be offered to resolve this problem within our community.

I found out there was a problem when some community members came to share information about nitrates at our house. They tested our water, and the results showed that the nitrate levels were higher than they should be given our result was an 11.3.

The owner has been providing us with the information we need regarding the water. The health department has also been in communication with us and also told us of the resources that are available to us, such as providing the free gallon water. We also attended the community meeting and have been in contact with the ORA team. This has been very good, because if it wasn't for these individuals, I might not have known there was a problem.

As I have only lived here for a year, I have learned a lot from the neighbors who have had to deal with this problem of the wells for much longer. It's been challenging, not being able to use water in ways I'm normally used to using it. And the extra expense when we pay for the gallons or cases of the bottled water to take to work, makes things difficult.

This is why I urgently ask you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Ricardo Garcia Lopez
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Ricardo Garcia Lopez
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Ricardo Garcia Lopez, vivo en Boardman desde el año pasado, y somos 7 personas rentando la propiedad, y trabajamos como choferes en el campo. Mi intención de compartir mi testimonio es de que se pueda ver una solución a este problema con el agua.

Yo me enteré que había un problema cuando vinieron unos miembros de la comunidad a compartir la información sobre los nitratos a nuestra casa. Nos hicieron la prueba del agua, y los resultados eran que si estaban los nitratos más altos del nivel que deben de estar, nuestro resultado fue un 11.3.

El propietario ha estado pendiente de que nosotros tengamos la información sobre el agua. el departamento de salud ha estado en comunicación con nosotros y también nos dijo de la ayuda con proporcionar el agua de galón gratuita y asistimos a la junta comunitaria y hemos estado en contacto con ORA team. Esto ha sido muy bueno, porque si no fuera por estos individuales, tal vez no supiera que había un problema.

Cómo nomas tengo un año viviendo aquí, he aprendido mucho de los vecinos que han tenido que lidiar con este problema de los pozos con mucho más tiempo. Es una batalla no poder usar el agua en formas que normalmente estoy acostumbrado a usarlo. Y el gasto que se hace cuando pagamos por los galones más las botellas de agua que se compran para ir al trabajo, es difícil.

Por esto les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Ricardo Garcia Lopez
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Salvador Pacheco
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Salvador Pacheco, I'm 73 years old, I've been living in this area for a long time, I don't even remember how long it's been, we were among the first to buy property here in this area and it's been a long time and that's how come I forgot how long it's been. I am the owner of my house.

I found out there was a problem with the water when I was changing the filters on the water heater. It had three filters and I often had to change these filters. When I changed the filters they were full of scale.

Back then, we did drink the water from the well, because we didn't know that it could harm us. But since we noticed that it had scale or build up, and it was staining the plants, we thought we better start buying bottled water to consume. I only used tap water for the bathroom, to wash the dishes, and also to water my plants.

We recently had our water tested and got a result of 32.6. I learned that this is higher than it should be, three times higher than the appropriate level. I went to the community meeting because a neighbor invited me, even though I can't hear well, and that's when I found out that they were going to be giving away emergency water.

I am interested in learning what can be done to fix this situation, perhaps making the wells deeper so that we have access to better water. And I also think it would be good to inform people better, so that they don't get sick like me, I don't know if it's because of the water that I suffered from a serious kidney infection, I had to go to the hospital in Seattle, and they cleaned my blood to remove the infection, and now I have many health complications. Sometimes I get discouraged because I have struggled a lot with my health, but we must find the will to carry on. That's why I would like to have a deeper well here, maybe I won't be living anymore, but I hope that there is good water for the good of the community by then.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Salvador Pacheco
July 11, 2022

Testimonio: Salvador Pacheco
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Salvador Pacheco tengo 73 años, yo tengo mucho tiempo viviendo en esta área, ya ni me acuerdo cuánto tiempo ha sido, fuimos de los primeros que compramos aquí en esta área y ya hace mucho tiempo y por eso se me olvido. Yo soy dueño de mi casa.

Me di cuenta que había un problema con el agua, cuando cambiaba los filtros del calentador de agua. Tenía tres filtros y seguido tenía que cambiar la resistencia, pero cuando cambiaba los filtros, estaban llenos de sarro. Seguido teníamos que estar reemplazando estos filtros.

Antes si tomábamos el agua del pozo, porque no sabíamos que nos podía hacer daño. Pero ya que notamos que tenía sarro, y manchaba las plantas, mejor empezamos a comprar agua embotellada para consumir. Solamente usaba agua de la llave para el baño, para lavar los trastes, y también para regar mis plantas.

Recientemente nos hicieron una prueba del agua y nos dieron el resultado de 32.6, aprendí que esto es más alto de lo que debería estar, tres veces más alto que el nivel apropiado. Fui a la junta comunitaria porque un vecino me invitó, aunque no oigo bien, y ahí fue donde me enteré que iban a estar regalando agua.

Me interesa aprender que se puede hacer para arreglar esta situación, tal vez haciendo los pozos con más profundidad para que tengamos acceso a agua más buena. Y también pienso que estaria bueno informar bien a la gente, para que no se enfermen como yo, no sé si es por el agua que he sufrido de una grave infección de los riñones, tuve que ir al hospital de Seattle, y me limpiaron la sangre para quitarme la infeccion, y ahora tengo muchas complicaciones de la salud. A veces me desanimo porque yo he batallado mucho con mi salud, pero tenemos que seguir adelante. Por eso me gustaría tener un pozo más profundo aquí, quizás ya no viva, pero que esté el agua buena para el bien de la comunidad.

Les pido de manera urgente continuar brindando recursos para que tengamos acceso a agua de emergencia, pruebas de pozos y tratamiento, hasta que nos convirtamos en una comunidad rural con agua segura.

Sinceramente,
Salvador Pacheco
11 de julio de 2022

Testimony: Selene Andrade
Location: Boardman, Oregon

My name is Selene Andrade, and I finished school recently and started working as a nurse. I have lived in Morrow Country since 2011. My family and I lived in Boardman for 6 years before moving to Irrigon. We have lived in Irrigon for the last 5 years. I have lived here with my parents and two other siblings. We have shared a well with our neighbors since we moved here. There was already a filter installed but I am sure how it works or if it even works. Today I share my testimony, hoping that this will help us receive the resources to make sure that we are a safe water community.

When we decided to move to Irrigon we were not informed of everything that it meant to own a well, the only thing we knew was that we were sharing one and that there was a separate bill with the electricity company for that. We never looked into the water quality or checked to see the effectiveness of the filter system that was already here. The neighbors just said that the water sucked and there was not much we could do. Occasionally we would use it to cook or drink out of it, but for the most part we always bought water bottles from the store.

In May, some members from Oregon Rural Action came by to see if they can get a water sample to test it. We gave them the water sample and within a couple weeks they called my dad and let him know that the nitrate levels came back normal (0.25), which was a good thing. At the end of the day, there is still a lot of skepticism about how clean the water is from our well. They might have let us know that there are no nitrates but it doesn't feel safe to drink out of that water.

I urge you to continue providing resources so that we have access to emergency water, well testing and treatment, until we become a rural community with safe water.

Sincerely,
Selene Andrade
July 11, 2022

Testimony: Cristina Sanchez
Location: Boardman, OR

My name is Cristina Sanchez and I live here in the town of Boardman, I have been living here for more than 20 years outside of the city limits and in fact this was the first year that I learned that this water is not good to drink, on the property we have we have always had a well and since the water tastes very bad we have not consumed from there we have always purchased drinking water.

Now that I know that water could be harmful to health and that I have children, I would like for the responsible authorities to help us until we can become a safe water community, because I do not want my children to continue with this problem later on. I have a four-year-old son and a son that's two months old and I don't want them to have illnesses as young people 10 or 20 years down the line.

Economically, the cost of water has always been expensive and more so in these times because everything is expensive. I have to buy salt for a system that helps the house to soften the water. I moved to this property 4 years ago with my husband. We have a well that we share with another family and it is the same situation because it is right here in Boardman and although there is a filter on this property, I am not 100% sure that the water is good that way. I only use the water for cooking.

I am concerned about all the children, the elderly, the young, the babies because it would be very sad if they got sick from a life resource that is used every day like oxygen, which is essential because if we did not have the option or the possibilities of buying water then what would we do? We would have to consume the only option that we have and that today we know is not good and well in the long term if something is not done it will affect us the most important thing which is health and well in reality in the economic part our children are going to continue buying water because they are going to have the same problem.

I call on you authorities to help us have a better quality of life regarding water because there is a solution, don't ignore us for another 30 years. Thank you very much for what has been done and hopefully this is the last battle that is being fought and that it means that they did help us.

Sincerely,
Cristina Sanchez
September 9, 2022

Testimonio: Cristina Sánchez
Ubicación: Boardman, Oregón

Mi nombre es Cristina Sanchez y vivo aqui en el pueblo de Boardman ya tengo mas de 20 anos viviendo aqui afuera de los límites de la ciudad y en realidad este fue el primer año que supe que esta agua no es buena para tomar, en la propiedad hemos siempre tenido un pozo y como el agua sabe muy mal nosotros no hemos consumido de ahí siempre hemos comprado.

Ahora que sé que el agua es dañina para la salud y que tengo hijos me gustaría que nos ayudaran con eso y que sea hasta que nos convirtamos a un comunidad con agua segura porque no quiero que después mis hijos sigan con ese problema tengo un hijo de cuatro años un hijo de 2 meses y no me gustaría que tengan enfermedades de jóvenes que a los 10 o 20 años se enfermen por esa causa.

En la parte económica siempre ha sido caro el costo del agua y más en estos tiempos porque todo está caro y se cobra también el envase y además de que ahora tengo que comprar sal para un sistema que le ayuda a la casa a suavizar el agua, yo me mude hace 4 años con mi esposo esta propiedad tenemos un pozo que compartimos con otra familia y es la misma situación porque es aquí mismo en Boardman y aunque en esta propiedad si hay filtro no estoy 100% segura de que el agua sea buena así que solo utilizo el agua solo para cocinar.

Me preocupa todas las personas niños, ancianos, jóvenes, los bebés porque sería muy triste que se enfermen por un recurso de vida que se ocupa todos los días como el oxígeno que es indispensable porque si no tuviéramos la opción o las posibilidades de comprar agua que haríamos? Tendríamos que consumir la única opción que tenemos y que hoy sabemos que no está bien y pues a largo plazo si no se hace algo nos va afectar lo más importante que es la salud y pues en realidad en la parte económica nuestros hijos van a seguir comprando agua porque ellos van a tener el mismo problema.

Hago el llamado a ustedes autoridades para que nos ayuden a tener una mejor calidad de vida respecto al agua porque tiene solución y me gustaría que nos olviden por otros 30 años. Muchas gracias desde ahorita por lo que se ha realizado y ojalá que esta sea la última batalla que se está haga y que signifique que sí nos ayudaron.

Sinceramente,
Cristina Sanchez
9 de septiembre de 2022