

David S. Wall
P.O. Box 756 Newberg, Oregon 97132; [408-287-6838]

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To: House Committee on Water; others

Re: I OPPOSE [HB 2145]...An enormous undertaking concerning well construction but, "No" water analysis?

The establishment of "The Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund."

"SECTION 3. The Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement... The fund shall consist of any moneys designated for deposit in the fund or for carrying out the program purposes, including but not limited to appropriations or other provisions of moneys by the Legislative Assembly and public or private moneys from gifts, grants or donations."

From what FUND is the Legislature going to "appropriate and or provision" to fund, "The Water Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund?"

The aforementioned question must be answered. The work of [HB 2145] is going to be one of the largest public works program in Oregon.

***The exact funding sources must be identified.

The 4th Amendment the "**Text: [Page 8 at (16-21)]**" states, **"(10) If the department observes a welding deficiency on a well, the department may order the licensee who welded the well to, within a reasonable time, complete an arc welding training course from a community college, acquire a professional welding certification, pass a welding proficiency test or otherwise complete professional welding training."**

***The "welding deficiency" remedy is substandard and incompetent.

***The "Start Card" process and contractor qualifications program is a nightmare.

There is "No" significant Laboratory testing of the well's water. There should be extensive Laboratory analysis of a well's water. Some of these abandoned wells might be highly contaminated with pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, PCBs and who knows what else. Closing up a well does not give a good snapshot of the health of the aquifer below it.

The Water Resources Department is going to undergo significant staffing increases to effectively carry out this mission. And, I don't suggest relying on nonprofit corporations.

The process of closing abandoned, or repairing and or replacing of Oregon's water wells should have been initiated decades ago. At least it now has begun. The taxpayers should not have to pay for a property owner's well; repair, replacement and or closure.

I wonder how many residential projects have stumbled upon abandoned wells just to cover them up with soil, gravel and or concrete?

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall