

WATER LEAGUE

*The mission of Water League is to engage
the public in the stewardship of water.*

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February 3, 2023

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair

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Christopher Hall

RE: Water League supports HB 2813 that ensures communities in this state that use surface water as a source of drinking water have access to safe drinking water.

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Committee Members,

Water League supports the concept of HB 2813 as stated in Section 1 [**emphasis added**]:

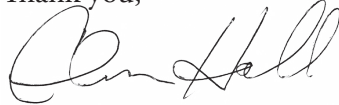
The Oregon Health Authority **shall ensure** that communities in this state that use surface water as a source of drinking water have access to safe drinking water in quantities that are sufficient to satisfy community needs by facilitating the protection and enhancement of drinking water sources and the recovery of impaired watersheds.

While the activities listed in Section 2 contribute to the bill's stated goal ensuring access to safe drinking water, the plan to fund land purchases in Section 3 will provide the greatest insurance against contamination of water sources. The initial appropriation of only \$5,000,000 to underwrite the grant program may not be sufficient to ensure communities in this state have access to safe drinking water, and continuous appropriations should be substantial enough to make a difference. Please consider a bill amendment that increases the initial appropriation.

Please also consider an amendment to include state funding for water suppliers to create Drinking Water Protection Plans as described in OAR 333-061-0057 Voluntary Drinking Water Protection Program.* Grant seekers who wish to apply for funds to purchase land to protect their drinking water supplies should first be required to possess an adopted Drinking Water Protection Plan. Seeking a grant is voluntary; therefore, requiring that grant seekers participate in the Voluntary Drinking Water

Protection Program before being eligible for grant funds described in Section 3 makes sense.

Thank you,



Christopher Hall
Executive Director

*** OAR 333-061-0020:**

(51) “Drinking Water Protection” means implementing strategies within a drinking water protection area to minimize the potential impact of contaminant sources on the quality of water being used as a drinking water source by a Public Water System.

(52) “Drinking Water Protection Area” or “DWPA” means the source area supplying drinking water to a Public Water System. For a surface water-supplied drinking water source the DWPA is all or a specifically determined part of a lake’s, reservoir’s or OAR 333-061-0020 Page 7 of 345 Effective January 1, 2022 stream’s watershed that has been certified by the Department of Environmental Quality. For a groundwater-supplied drinking water source the DWPA is the area on the surface that directly overlies that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to a well, well field or spring that has been certified by the Authority.

(53) “Drinking Water Protection Plan” means a plan, certified by the Department of Environmental Quality according to OAR 340-040-0160 to 340-040-0180, which identifies the actions to be taken at the local level to protect a specifically defined and certified DWPA. The plan is developed by the local Responsible Management Authority or team and includes a written description of each element, public participation efforts, and an implementation schedule.

Also see: OAR 333-061-0057 Voluntary Drinking Water Protection Program