

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Support for HB 3124 and SB5506

Please hear my concerns for my family, neighbors and community.

As Morrow County suffers, I write this letter. I read the testimony of others before I wrote this to better understand the asks provided by others. Our plight seems so simple, so basic, **Clean Water**. This is Oregon, my home state, where clean air and clean water were once abundant and the reason we chose this great state. But Oregon has failed the citizens of Morrow County, failed to protect our greatest asset, our water.

We are a small rural community, will probably become the first minority majority community in Oregon. Our water is polluted with Nitrate. A problem the state has known about for 30 years. County Commissioner Jim Doherty had the courage to face this problem and its devastating affects it has had on our community, economy and environment. Under his leadership and the help of Oregon Rural Action we are asking your help in combating this issue. We know it's going to be a long haul. Our ask today is only for the local short term solutions: Education and outreach, testing, filters and clean water delivery.

The budget I was provided was slightly over the 15 million dollar mark. I would gladly supply that to anyone interested. This is a local ask and does not include any agency funding. I would have you consider additional funding for DEQ for greater oversight. This budget reflects this biennium. I listened to a Port commissioner say, " this could be an 80 year clean up." How simple it would have been to compel compliance and after two Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Area actions plans were written, action should have been taken.

We all have stories to tell about the affects the nitrate pollution has had on us. The health issues we face now and the ones we may face later. Every time I listen to one of those stories I tear up - Not because of loss, but knowing that this was all preventable, it's all man caused. Voluntary measures are not working, the nitrates are building in our ground water and we recently detected at 42.6 ppm level in a nearby surface stream that goes directly into the Great Columbia. I can't believe I live in Oregon and my grand children can't drink out of the garden hose, or fill a small pool or trough to swim in, have brush their teeth with bottled water. This isn't a third world county, this is Oregon.

Please help fund our basic ask. Keep the welfare of Oregonians in your hearts and in your budget. Protect and serve the people of our great state.

Kelly Doherty - Rancher- Mother- Grandmother- Morrow County - Oregon.