

**HB 3528 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

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**Action Date:** 03/10/25

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 6-1-2-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Hartman, Helm, Marsh, McDonald, McLain, Scharf

**Nays:** 1 - Boice

**Exc:** 2 - Levy B, Owens

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17, 3/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure allocates \$3.2 million from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for distribution to the University of Oregon, intended for the Climate Solutions Center to research and address the water needs of environmental justice communities and to provide grant awards. Additionally, the measure allocates \$800,000 from the General Fund to the HECC for distribution to Portland State University, intended for the Institute for Tribal Government, to study the water needs of tribal communities and offer grants. The measure takes effect 91 days after adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current status of the grants provided under the Water Equity Fund
- Application process for Water Equity Fund grant programs

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Climate Solution Center is a platform at the University of Oregon with a mission to “facilitate collaborative research and community engagement to find effective real-world responses to environmental and climate challenges focused on higher education’s role and contribution to a just and livable future.” The Institute for Tribal Government is housed in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. Its mission is to “serve elected tribal governments from across the nation and also to provide training to local, state and federal government agencies and others who are interested in learning about tribal government.”