

Submitter: Juanita Rinas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Juanita Rinas, and I live in Eugene. With the federal government eliminating essential environmental protections, it is critical that state leaders actively protect our communities and our environment.

Climate disruption threatens progress on every other topic discussed today: kids miss school because of extreme weather. As we strive to house more people, our neighbors are displaced by fires and the costs of home insurance is stressing affordability.

Oregon's Resilience Hubs and Networks deliver critical resources like medical supplies and water purification systems to help communities prepare for disasters, save lives, and recover faster. Everyone should have safe and reliable drinking water. State programs that help low-income Oregonians repair or replace failing septic systems and drinking water wells are essential to protect public health.

Access to clean water also requires coordinated water management. And, good water management depends on good data. We must fund water data collection in Oregon to know how much water is getting used, where and when, and make sure that information is easily available to the public. To better protect the health of our communities and the environment, we must stop toxic chemicals at the source. By funding the state agencies responsible for monitoring and cutting these dangerous toxics from our environment, we can improve our health – and the health of all living things in Oregon

Oregonians who purchase an electric car or truck need accessible charging, regardless of where they live. Funding for Community Charging Rebates and the Zero Emissions, Medium and Heavy Duty Rebate program brings key charging infrastructure to rural and underrepresented communities across the state. While electric vehicles are not entirely sustainable nor are they environmentally friendly due to lithium mining for their batteries, they are a temporary measure to reduce air pollution and lower the carbon footprint. In time hopefully hydrogen powered vehicles will be safe and accessible which will make transportation less volatile in the natural environment.

Thank you for working to protect Oregon now, and fully fund state-level

environmental protections

Sincerely,

Juanita Rinas
Eugene, Oregon