

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

April 17, 2025

Subject: Support for \$4 Million in Water Equity Funding

Co-Chairs Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod, Representatives David Gomberg and Greg Smith, and members of the committee,

My name is Susan Palmiter and I am writing as a person of faith who believe all people deserve clean water to drink. My faith's 7th Principle states: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." This principle highlights the interconnectedness of all beings and encourages a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the planet and all its inhabitants. I support HB 3528 because it addresses Oregon's water challenges for the most vulnerable among us.

Oregon's water systems are under increasing pressure due to aging infrastructure, climate change, and long-standing underinvestment. These challenges disproportionately impact communities—tribal nations, rural areas, low-income families, and communities of color—who often lack the resources to address water crises effectively.

This is an investment in health, safety, and resilience for our communities today and for future generations.

I urge you to support HB 3528 and continue investing in water equity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your important work.

Sincerely,  
Susan Palmiter  
First Unitarian of Portland Congregant  
Portland Oregon