April 3, 2019

RE: House Bill 3182, concerning risk-based water quality standards for on-site non-potable water systems

Dear **Committee on Energy and Environment Members**,

I write to express my support for House Bill 3182, which will streamline permitting of non-potable water systems. This Bill would provide necessary supports for broader adoption of innovative water conservation practices. Without diverse, successful strategies to address competing water demands, conflicts over limited water resources will intensify as the state's population grows.

These on-site non-potable water systems offset valuable potable water supplies and unlock untapped potential for more resilient and sustainable water management. One study in California found that 45% of their water demand could be met by reusing alternative water supplies, assuming the full build-out of high efficiency fixtures (which would reduce the amount of alternative water available).

Benefit of the Legislation

- The legislation will streamline a clear permitting pathway for on-site non-potable systems, which currently doesn't exist.
- The risk-based framework is a science-based internationally-accepted methodology, which will reduce the agencies' exposure to risk associated with meeting their public health and environmental regulatory requirements.
- The financial costs of implementing, operating and maintaining ONWS are reduced, which accelerates their adoption.
- Integrating ONWS into centralized water systems can improve resiliency during natural disasters and climate change events by diversifying and decentralizing a city's or state's water portfolio.

By increasing and diversifying our water supplies across Oregon State through the passing of House Bill 3182, we have an opportunity to greatly positively impact public health, environmental quality and our resilience as a community. For all these reasons identified, I respectfully request that you vote to approve House Bill 3182.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Guillozet, Ph.D.
Director, Willamette Model Watershed Program