



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Julie Fitzgerald Supporting
HB 3102, HB 3093 and HB 2821:**

***Proposed Legislation Provides DEQ with Resources to Study Harmful Algal
Blooms, Conduct Cyanotoxin Analysis, Develop Plans to Protect Public Health***

Scheduled for public hearing on March 10, 2021, before the House Committee on Water

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Owens and Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of a trio of bills before the committee—HB 3102, HB 3093 and HB 2821—that provide the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with resources to study harmful algal blooms (HABs) and conduct cyanotoxin analysis in order to protect public health.

The City of Wilsonville’s Public Works Director has worked extensively with Chair Helm’s HABs workgroup on recommendations contained in the proposed legislation. These are common-sense proposals that position Oregon to better protect public health in the long-term.

HB 3102 directs DEQ to purchase a cyanotoxin autoanalyzer system instrument and associated supplies and services, along with creating a seasonal position to assist with cyanotoxin analysis. Having an in-state, centralized location for quick turn-around analysis of domestic water samples is crucial to public water systems ability to protect public health.

HB 3093 directs DEQ to study harmful algal blooms and provide results of study in report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022. Given the increasing prevalence of HABs both in terms of wider geographic distribution/locations and lengthening duration of time/seasonality, coupled with recent land-altering mega-wildfires, it is crucial for public agencies to better understand the causes of and potential mitigations for HABs.

HB 2821 declares HABs to be menace to public health and welfare and directs the Oregon Health Authority to identify water sources susceptible to HABs, monitor and test susceptible waters and develop protocol for public advisory alerts, which has been sorely lacking. The bill also directs DEQ to develop a response strategy to HABs, to develop relevant data, identify sources of pollutants, develop strategies to reduce pollutants, determine causes and prepare a biennial report.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on HB 3102, HB 3092 and HB 2821. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor
City of Wilsonville