



January 18, 2025

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support HB 2168, Funding for Certain Water Programs**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 2168. We agree that assistance is needed for households that rely on drinking water and septic systems. The three pronged funding approach makes sense with Oregon State University providing technical assistance, Oregon Water Resources Department providing support through the water well abandonment, repair and replacement fund, and the Department of Environmental Quality providing support through septic system low interest loan program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Dean".

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
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