



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 17, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3528 - Support

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6,300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you please support HB 3528.

In addition to campus classrooms, our members work in the field and laboratories all over Oregon. Research programs at higher education institutions across Oregon depend on both tenured professors, who direct programs, and non-tenured research personnel, who manage labs and perform hands-on research. The AAUP-OR supports these hard working faculty and personnel working in every aspect of the research enterprise.

As you know, university research is funded by a patchwork of state, federal, and local funds, which can leave faculty with a sense of precarity. This can also leave research unfunded which is critical to Oregonians and the future of our state. At this moment, federal funding for research and applied science is uncertain, particularly when it comes to environmental justice issues such as protecting water resources in marginalized communities. HB 3528 provides the stability and support for UO and PSU researchers to address water issues that affect the health and well-being of Oregonians.

Availability, affordability, and quality of drinking water can be affected by failing infrastructure, and low-income communities and individuals may struggle to replace small water systems and private wells. Structural barriers in Oregon's water management systems may disproportionately impact Oregon's communities of color, tribes, and renters, and are exacerbated by climate change and extreme weather. HB 3528 enables those communities to partner with university

researchers to characterize risks and insecurity in their systems, and work together to find practical, evidence-based solutions.

For the good of our state and our residents, we should leverage our investment in university research to solve real-world problems like this one. I urge you to pass HB 3528 with full funding.

Thank you for your consideration,
Louisa Hooven
VP of Political Action, AAUP Oregon