

Submitter: Timothy Herrera

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3528

To: Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

Subject: Support for HB 3528: Ensuring Water Equity for All Oregonians

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Timothy Herrera, and I am writing as as a faculty member in Anthropology at the University of Oregon, who is engaged in environmental justice work. As a resident of Eugene, I am deeply concerned about our community's water infrastructure and the health of the communities in our state. I urge you to support HB 3528, a vital piece of legislation that addresses Oregon's critical water challenges and advances water equity for all.

Oregon's water systems are facing mounting pressures. Aging infrastructure, the escalating impacts of climate change, and decades of under investment have created a perfect storm, jeopardizing access to this essential resource. These challenges disproportionately burden front-line communities—including Tribal Nations, rural communities, low-income families, and communities of color—who often lack the political power and financial resources to effectively address these crises.

HB 3528 provides a crucial \$4 million investment to support vital research and community-based solutions:

- \$3.2 million for the University of Oregon: This funding will support critical research and the development of innovative, community-driven solutions to address pressing water challenges across the state.
- \$800,000 for Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Governments: This allocation empowers Tribal Nations to lead the way in developing and implementing culturally appropriate and sustainable water management practices.

By passing HB 3528, the Legislature takes a significant step toward ensuring that all Oregonians, especially the most vulnerable, have access to clean, safe, and affordable water. This is not merely an investment in infrastructure; it's an investment in the health, safety, and resilience of our communities, both now and for generations to come. It's an investment in equity and justice.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3528 and demonstrate your commitment to water equity for all Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Timothy Herrera
University of Oregon