



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 18, 2025

To: Reps. [Helm](#) and [Owens](#), Co-Chairs

Members of the [House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water](#)

Re: [HB 3525](#) – Domestic Well Testing for Rental Property – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters adopted a position on water quality in 1969, a position on Water Policy and Planning in 1977 and, after 3 years of study, adopted a combined Water Policy-Quality and Quantity position in 2011. Many League members—Oregonians across the state—get their drinking water from wells.

We support HB 3525 so that renters can have the same level of understanding of their domestic well water as we now require for sellers of property to buyers. Renters deserve to know that their domestic well is not contaminated. With our housing crisis, more and more Oregonians are renting properties in areas where domestic wells are the single source of drinking water. Some of those properties are in areas where contamination may have existed in the past—or even now. Without testing, these renters are taking a public health risk. Landlords should be required to test these wells so their tenants can consider their actions related to drinking water.

Also of importance to the League is that this broader set of data being collected around well water quality in Oregon be provided to the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as they struggle to better understand the breadth of groundwater contamination in Oregon. By requiring the data to be forwarded to DEQ, we are completing a loop much needed. If additional staffing is needed by DEQ to assure this information is aggregated in a timely manner to help paint the picture of groundwater quality in Oregon, we would also support that request.

We are seeing more and more drinking water wells being drilled, and we are seeing current wells drying up or becoming contaminated. We know that there are serious health concerns around well water contamination. As we experience more drought, groundwater contamination is likely to become an even greater issue. One solution lies with this bill.

We urge your **support for HB 3525**.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bentson".

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator