

February 19, 2025

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

Subject: Support for \$4 Million in Water Equity Funding

Co Chairs Helm and Owens, and members of the committee

My name is Christina Marie Jenkins, and I am writing as an intern for the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, where I engage in frontline advocacy and mediation regarding the effects of pollution in the Willamette River, which is federally recognized as a Superfund site. I advocate for the BIPOC and Indigenous Native American communities that have been devastated by the loss of healthy access to ancestral lands and the dwindling availability of first foods, many of which are too toxic to consume due to pollution in the river and surrounding lands.

I support **HB 3528** as it is a critical step in addressing Oregon's water challenges for all Oregonians.

Guided by Cassie Cohen and alongside the members and supporters of the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, I work tirelessly to uplift the voices of communities most impacted by pollution in the Portland Harbor Superfund site. Our goal is to ensure that those directly affected not only benefit from but also have a leading role in the cleanup, restoration, and redevelopment of the harbor.

Oregon's water systems are under increasing pressure due to aging infrastructure, climate change, and long-standing underinvestment. These challenges disproportionately impact frontline communities—tribal nations, rural areas, low-income families, and communities of color—who often lack the resources to address water crises effectively.

HB 3528 provides \$4 million in funding to support much-needed research and grants:

- \$3.2 million to the University of Oregon for research and grants that help communities address water challenges.
- \$800,000 to Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Governments to support tribal-led water solutions.

By passing HB 3528, the Legislature will help ensure that all Oregonians, especially those most impacted, have access to clean and reliable water. This is an investment in health, safety, and resilience for our communities today and for future generations.

I urge you to support HB 3528 and continue investing in water equity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Christina Mare Jenkins