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February 27, 2025

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

**RE: Support for [HB 3106](#) - Water Data Portal**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Jamie Pang, and I am the Deputy Director of Programs and Policy of Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA), a member-based alliance of over 20 urban and rural communities across the state of Oregon. Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony on HB 3106.

In 2020, OJTA hosted a statewide Listening Tour with our core alliance members that brought together people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working folks across the state to gather insights that continue to shape OJTA's policy efforts today. During the tour, many alliance members and their communities voiced concerns about water quality and scarcity in various parts of Oregon, where industrial agriculture and logging have depleted and damaged vital watersheds. Those living and working in agricultural communities shared fears that toxins and other chemicals are contaminating their drinking water.

Additionally, our Alliance members and their communities have expressed their concerns about transparency and lack of information, and the State's ability to adequately address these concerns. A pilot project such as the Water Data Portal offers a valuable opportunity for agencies to enhance transparency, foster stronger relationships with communities most impacted by water scarcity and water quality issues, and most importantly- rebuild trust.

OJTA does not feel strongly whether such a portal is hosted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or at OSU's Institute for Water and Watersheds as recommended by other parties, but we recognize the need for interagency coordination and interagency data coordination, technical expertise, avoiding duplication, and making such data about water quality accessible to the public and all water users.

A significant portion of OJTA's members, alliance members, and their communities are renters, are low income, or they rely on well-water or older systems. Making a 'one stop shop' for water data helps the State develop solutions for water contamination issues and allows for impacted communities to be educated and more empowered to develop solutions for themselves.

By investing in a Water Data Portal, we could help ensure to clean and reliable water. through the use of data for all Oregonians, for generations to come. This is a policy change needed to ensure the health, safety, and resilience for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

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