



To: Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee

Re: Support SB 1154

Date: April 3, 2025

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We need SB 1154 to fix the broken Groundwater Quality Protection Act of 1989. Groundwater pollution continues to get worse in our most vulnerable communities and fuel public health crises in places like the Lower Umatilla Basin. Billion-dollar corporations pollute more and more for the sake of profit. Our current laws have failed to give agencies the tools they need to enforce the law, and have failed to protect at-risk Oregonians.

The cost of this failure is clear. In the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA alone, thousands of Oregonians have been affected by nitrate contamination for years. Many learned only recently that their water was unsafe, though polluters and state agencies had known for decades. And many families have suffered health problems linked to nitrate pollution, including cancer, miscarriages, thyroid issues, birth defects, and more.

Please vote YES on SB 1154

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony DeFalco".

Tony DeFalco
Executive Director