



4145 NE Cully Blvd., Portland, OR, 97630 | 503-290-8570

April 17, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

RE: Support for SB 830

Chair Lively and Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy:

Verde is a community-based organization dedicated to building environmental wealth through organizing, advocacy, and social enterprise. We are writing to express our strong support for SB 830.

SB 830 strengthens the DEQ-managed Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program by introducing grants, fostering partnerships, and expanding eligibility to include multi-family and affordable housing projects. While the program has supported over 510 septic repairs across 29 Oregon counties in the past three years, many low-income residents still struggle to afford even low-interest loans. By incorporating grants and extending aid to larger septic systems—such as those in manufactured home parks—SB 830 will create accessibility to the program and help safeguard water quality and ensure safe, stable housing for vulnerable Oregonians.

SB 830 creates broader, more equitable access to funding for critical water infrastructure projects. By expanding eligibility to include low- and moderate-income rural households, residential housing providers, and both residential and commercial property owners, this bill opens the door for many who have previously been left out of assistance programs. It ensures that more people—regardless of income or location—can access support to repair failing septic systems and wells.

These repairs aren't just technical fixes—they are essential to preventing groundwater contamination and protecting public health. Leaking septic systems can introduce dangerous contaminants like nitrates and manganese into drinking water sources, putting families and entire communities at risk. SB 830 provides the funding needed to stop these threats at the source and restore the safety of household water systems.

At its core, SB 830 is about equity and access. It recognizes that safe water and sanitation should not depend on where you live or how much you earn. We urge you to support SB 830 and help



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build a future where every Oregonian has access to the clean water and sanitation services they need to thrive. Thank you.

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