

Submitter: Ethel Gullette
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

April 17, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subject: Support for \$4 Million in Water Equity Funding

Co-Chairs Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod, Representatives David Gomberg and Greg Smith, and members of the committee,

My name is Ethel Gullette, and I live in Beaverton. I am writing because I feel very strongly about every person's right to adequate, reliable, clean, healthy water. I support HB 3528 as it is a critical step in addressing Oregon's water challenges for all Oregonians. For the last few years, through connections I have made as a Unitarian Universalist, I have been making regular donations toward supplying water to the Warm Springs Reservation, as their need has been great. And I know that well-meaning people's donations are woefully inadequate to meet the actual water needs through our state.

Oregon's water systems are under increasing pressure due to aging infrastructure, climate change, and long-standing underinvestment. These challenges disproportionately impact 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,
Ethel Gullette