

# KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

## June 5, 2018

### Documents entered into the record

1. **Public Hearing Testimony regarding Ordinance 2018-01,  
Drinking Water Supply Regulations:**
  - a. Betsy Cooper, League of Women Voters – Kitsap
  - b. Elizabeth Schulz, Kekamek Water System - Poulsbo

Testimony for June 5th Kitsap Health Board Meeting

My name is Betsy Cooper and I am here today representing the Kitsap League of Women Voters to provide testimony in support of the proposed Ordinance 1999-6 Drinking Water Supply Regulations being considered today by the Board.

The League is offering comment today because our organization has National and State issue positions that recognize the importance of the protection and preservation of safe drinking water supplies. I have excerpts from these positions which I will provide in writing with this testimony. We also, as a Local League, have recently formed a Water Resources Committee and begun educating ourselves about the utilities and infrastructure systems in Kitsap County that manage and provide oversight of our drinking water systems. As we learned about the oversight mechanisms in Kitsap County for private and small public water systems, it became clear to the Committee that there appears to be an important gap in the Health District's ability to assure that these smaller well systems are consistently operated in a safe and appropriate manner.

We learned that the District had been working on code revisions for some time and that the Ordinance before you today has been through several iterations to focus the agencies efforts on providing resources for initiating a framework for reasonable level of oversight, inspection and technical assistance of Group B wells.

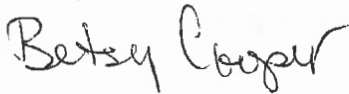
We believe it is vital for the Kitsap Health District to have the funding and operational framework it needs to meet all State and Federal Drinking Water requirements. Currently the District does not have the funding to support appropriate oversight over the Group B Wells in Kitsap County. The proposed Ordinance provisions are an important step that (mirroring the Septic rules) the District can take to begin to fund inspection, technical assistance, and education to well operators. Appropriate funding not only allows the Health District to provide more oversight - it provides greater health and safety protection to the public. The end users will have more security and confidence in the quality of the water they are drinking.

Having yearly permits which require reporting can trigger inspections and enforcement. Such permits also can trigger a process of designating non-compliance and resolution of that non-compliance. We believe that compliance with the sampling and survey requirements for Group B systems should be 100 percent to ensure the quality of drinking water, and this ordinance will help to advance that objective.

Finally making mandatory Water Status Reporting upon the sale or transfer of properties will yield important information for future owners of the properties connected to such wells and for the County's understanding of the quality of the source waters. This is common requirement throughout the country, and a useful way to monitor the safety of these systems and the source waters they tap from.

We support this Ordinance as proposed.

Thank you,



Betsy Cooper

Chair, Water Resources Committee

League of Women Voters of Kitsap

Attachment 1 – Relevant League of Women Voters National and State Positions on Water Resources and Water Quality Protection

## **Relevant League of Women Voters National and State Positions on Water Resources and Water Quality Protection**

### Excerpts from National Positions

The League believes:

The League believes that although environmental protection and pollution control are responsibilities shared by all levels of government,

Environmental protection and pollution control, including waste management, should be considered a cost of providing a product or service. Consumers, taxpayers and ratepayers must expect to pay some of the costs.

The League of Women Voters supports:

☑ Regulation of pollution sources by control and penalties ☑ Inspection and monitoring ☑ Full disclosure of pollution data ☑ Incentives to accelerate pollution control ☑ Vigorous enforcement mechanisms, including sanctions for states and localities that do not comply with federal standards and substantial fines for noncompliance

League of Women Voters supports:

☑ Water resource programs and policies that protect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground-water and surface water and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies ☑ Measures to reduce water pollution from direct point source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources

### Excerpts from State Positions

The League of Women Voters of Washington supports:

WR-1: Strict enforcement of laws affecting water quality and quantity management in Washington State. Enforcement requires emphasis upon cooperation and coordination among the many agencies as well as funding levels adequate to accomplish effective controls. Water claims under the jurisdiction of the State of Washington should be quantified. Water quality and water quantity programs should be integrated.

05 June 2018

To: Kitsap Public Health District  
345 6th Street Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

Fr: E. Elizabeth A. Schulz  
1735 Kikamek Drive  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

I have reviewed the information sent to the Kikamek Water System and website. I have no objections to requiring a water status report be provided by sellers. It is also reasonable to have written owner/user agreements. These assure everyone is fully aware of the well's status.

However, I severely object to the \$75 operating permit, in addition to the already required annual well test. This is taxing people who have fully functioning, compliant systems to pay for mal-functioning systems. The out-of-compliance systems should pay for their own remediation and any subsequent certification of compliance. This is their sole responsibility, not the responsibility of all private well owners. The annual operating permit for compliant wells is grossly unfair.