

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Quality
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: AB 2501 (Chu) – Expanding Access to Clean Drinking Water - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wieckowski:

We write in strong support of AB 2501, which would strengthen an existing tool and help secure safe drinking water to the many Californians who lack access.

The undersigned organizations with drinking water advocates, drinking water agencies, environmental and environmental justice advocates, are committed to seeing safe drinking water a reality for all families and all children in the state.

About one million Californians lack safe drinking water. Water that runs from the taps in their homes and in their schools contains arsenic, nitrates, chrom-6, E. coli, and other contaminants and pathogens. Families dependent on private domestic wells are often the most vulnerable to contaminated water and even total well failure. AB 2501 would strengthen an important tool for addressing this crisis and by complementing other tools such as a stable and sustainable drinking water fund. This bill could contribute to the end of unsafe drinking water in our state.

While existing law allows the state board to require consolidation with water systems that cannot provide safe drinking water to customers, this bill would clarify the state's authority to require service extension to communities that get their drinking water from private wells and state small water systems. Hundreds of thousands of households in California receive water from domestic wells and state small water systems, which are often the most vulnerable to source water contamination and depletion. This bill would also allow communities facing drinking water crises to request the state board to consider ordering a consolidation to secure safe water for the communities.

Ultimately, this bill improves upon existing law and strengthens one of the state's existing tools to address unsafe drinking water.

We thank you for your support of this measure and your commitment to securing safe drinking water for all Californians. We urge your AYE vote on AB 2501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Lee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Lee
Policy Advocate