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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Glen United Says "Yes" to Clean Water, "No" to Paying for it Twice

South Boardman Neighborhood Group Says it's Open to Proposed City Water Extension, but Polluters Must Cover the Costs

BOARDMAN – In a "show of unity and strength," West Glen United / West Glen Unidos announced that an overwhelming majority of their neighborhoods have signed a petition demanding "fair and just" terms for safe drinking water in their homes.

In a letter addressed to the Morrow County Clean Water Consortium, which is leading a plan to extend Boardman city water to the neighborhood, West Glen United highlighted its ongoing concern – the additional costs to residents.

"We didn't pollute our wells – big ag and big tech did – and we've paid the cost in well expense, health and property values," said Paulo Lopez, an ambassador for West Glen United. "The polluters need to pay for the solutions – not the taxpayers or residents with polluted wells."

West Glen United's letter requested that the Water Consortium, with Port of Morrow and Morrow County decision-makers, present options to offset the additional costs to residents and other terms at its next meeting on August 11th, and move the next meeting time to 6 pm to allow residents to attend after work.

The wells in West Glen are highly contaminated with nitrate. Many are three to six times the federal limit. The Consortium identified this neighborhood as the first project in the county to develop a secure, safe source of drinking water. However, they repeatedly insist that West Glen will have to pay the additional costs for connecting to city water. This includes monthly bills, which are much higher for those outside city limits.

The letter clarifies that the neighborhood is open to connecting to city water, but the polluters responsible for nitrate contamination must cover the additional costs.

~~Years of state studies show that nitrate pollution in groundwater across the basin is driven by overuse of synthetic fertilizers, manure, and industrial wastewater. Industries like the Port of Morrow and Lamb Weston have frequently been cited by the State of Oregon for overloading fields with nitrogen, which leaches into groundwater. The state reconfirmed in a January 2026 study that nitrate levels are still rising across the region, which puts more domestic wells and public water systems at risk.~~

The letter states, "We ask you to understand that we unknowingly lived with dangerous water for decades, and we have been participating in the effort to fix this problem for four years. But the solution is not just selling us water."

The next meeting of the Morrow County Clean Water Consortium will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at the Port of Morrow. This will be the first meeting since the Port voted to remove Port commissioner Kelly Doherty, based on allegations that she represented the communities' interests rather than the Port.

"This isn't just about one neighborhood, said Kristin Ostrom, ORA Executive Director. "It's also about the hundreds of homes in Morrow and Umatilla County that don't have safe drinking water. Safe water is a human right, not a privilege."

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**OREGON
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Date: July 30, 2026

To: Morrow County Clean Water Consortium

CC: Port of Morrow, Morrow County, Boardman City Council
and Mayor

From: West Glen United/ West Glen Unidos Ambassadors

Paulo Lopez, Teresa Calvillo, Annie Philpott, and Jim Klipfel

West Glen United / West Glen Unidos is a group of residents in the proposed West Glen/Paul Smith Road city water extension area. Our wells have been polluted and are undrinkable.

We are a group of neighbors with simple goals – we want a safe, permanent source of drinking water that is fair and just to people whose wells have been polluted, and for the pollution to stop.

While the pollution has been going on for almost 40 years, we were not informed of the pollution by the county or State until 2022. Since then, we have worked for safe water solutions. We have knocked on doors to inform our neighbors of the health risks of nitrate. We have pushed for free testing, filtration, and bottled water delivery for everyone whose well has been polluted. We have also attended dozens of public meetings to speak up in public comment. As West Glen neighbors, we fully participated in the Consortium's August and October 2025 presentations, listened and asked questions about options for a new drinking water source, and shared our needs. However, our concerns and needs are not being addressed in the ongoing planning process and not in the proposal to extend city water to our neighborhood. Our primary concern with this proposal continues to be ignored - the additional new costs to residents.

First, the planning process has not included us, although it has a huge impact on our lives, our families, our budgets, and our properties. We have asked for Consortium meetings to be held in the evening with interpretation so we have the opportunity to participate after work. We want the county to be sharing information with us directly and taking our input seriously. It is both fair and effective to include us in the process - meaningfully. **Only with us – our participation, our on-the-ground perspective, and our buy-in – can this project be successful.**

Second, to be clear, most of us are not outright opposed to city water extension. While we want our wells to be drinkable, we understand city water extension is one of the best options for safe water in our polluted basin. We want a source of safe drinking water, but we don't want a "take it or leave it" city water option at any cost. We want a connection option to work for our properties, make sense with our families, and to be fair to us – the victims of pollution. Our cost of living

should not go up because of pollution we did not cause, and the polluters responsible should be the ones paying for any new costs, now and in the future.

Third, we are seeking just solutions to the pollution of our drinking water. Decades of data from the State show the nitrate pollution is overwhelmingly caused by industrial wastewater, fertilizer, and manure from large companies, not individual residents. We have paid for the consequences of unchecked pollution with our health and our property values. It is not just to ask the victims of drinking water pollution to pay twice—once for our wells and again with a city water bill. The region's sole source of drinking water is polluted; state studies show the contamination is increasing. We can expect increasing costs for those on public water systems as well.

We are asking the county and the Clean Water Consortium to understand the injustice of the situation for residents. We ask you to understand that we unknowingly lived with dangerous water for decades, and we have been participating in the effort to fix this problem for four years. But the solution is not just selling us water. It is listening to us and creating a connection option that addresses our concerns. Putting "pipes in the ground" and selling us water while allowing the pollution to continue is not acceptable.

We are a neighborhood that is united for just solutions. Over the last few months, we have worked with Oregon Rural Action to talk to almost every household in the West Glen/Paul Smith extension area. While waiting for the County Administrator to get back to us, we have shared information the county provided at the October 2025 public meeting about the proposed water extension project and heard neighbors' concerns.

We created a petition with five terms and conditions that address our concerns and must be met for us to connect to city water. An overwhelming majority of households in the extension area have signed on to the terms and conditions in our petition.

West Glen United/ West Glen Unidos is ready to hear your ideas to meet our petition terms for a just solution at the next Clean Water Consortium meeting in August. We request that you hold it from 6 to 8 pm with interpretation so that we can participate.

Please respond by Thursday, August 6th, to confirm the meeting time and availability of interpretation. We look forward to your written response.

Please find our petition attached.

West Glen United / West Glen Unidos

Terms and Conditions Petition

1. We demand a safe, clean, permanent water source for our families, our homes, and our neighborhood. Water is not a privilege; it is a human right.
2. We will not pay again. We have already paid to construct or purchase our wells, to maintain them, and then with the loss of our health and property values from pollution. We did not pollute our wells, so it is time for justice—polluters must pay.
3. We want to maintain our way of life and our autonomy outside city limits. We do not want to be annexed into the City of Boardman.
4. We demand the right to continue using our wells for non-drinking uses and have real, long-term guarantees to do so.
5. We have the right to be heard on the decisions that affect our lives. We demand clear information, real participation in decision-making, and a process that is transparent, fair, and respectful. And let this be clear: we will not tolerate retaliation for raising our voices.



**West Glen
United**



**West Glen
Unidos**



Fecha: 30 de julio de 2026

Para: Morrow County Clean Water Consortium

De: Embajadores de West Glen Unidos / West Glen United
Paulo Lopez, Teresa Calvillo, Annie Philpott, y Jim Klipfel

West Glen Unidos / West Glen United es un grupo de residentes de la zona donde se propone extender la conexión de agua municipal de West Glen y Paul Smith Road. Nuestros pozos se han contaminado y el agua no es apta para el consumo.

Somos un grupo de vecinos con objetivos sencillos – queremos una fuente de agua potable segura y permanente que sea justa y equitativa para las personas cuyos pozos han sido contaminados, y queremos que pare la contaminación.

Aunque la contaminación persiste desde hace casi 40 años, ni el condado ni el estado nos informaron al respecto hasta 2022. Desde entonces, hemos trabajado para lograr soluciones que garanticen agua segura. Hemos visitado hogares para informar a nuestros vecinos sobre los riesgos para la salud que conlleva el nitrato. Hemos abogado por la realización de análisis gratuitos, la instalación de sistemas de filtración y el suministro de agua embotellada para todas aquellas personas cuyos pozos se han visto afectados por la contaminación. Asimismo, hemos asistido a numerosas reuniones públicas para expresar nuestras opiniones. Como vecinos de West Glen, participamos activamente en las presentaciones que el Consorcio realizó en agosto y octubre de 2025; escuchamos y planteamos preguntas sobre las opciones para una nueva fuente de agua potable, además de exponer nuestras necesidades. Sin embargo, nuestras inquietudes y necesidades no se están tomando en cuenta en el proceso de planificación en curso ni en la propuesta para extender la conexión de agua municipal a nuestro vecindario. Se sigue ignorando nuestra principal preocupación – los costos adicionales para los residentes.

En primer lugar, el proceso de planificación no nos ha incluido, a pesar de que tiene un enorme impacto en nuestras vidas, nuestras familias, nuestras finanzas y nuestras propiedades. Hemos solicitado que las reuniones del Consorcio sean en la tarde y cuenten con servicio de interpretación para que podamos participar después del trabajo. Queremos que el condado comparta información directamente con nosotros y tome en serio nuestras aportaciones. Incluirnos en el proceso —de manera significativa— es tanto justo como eficaz. **Solo contando con nosotros — con nuestra participación, nuestra perspectiva sobre el terreno y nuestro respaldo — podrá tener éxito este proyecto.**

En segundo lugar, para que quede claro, la mayoría de nosotros no nos oponemos rotundamente a la extensión de la conexión de agua municipal. Si bien queremos que el agua de nuestros pozos sea potable, entendemos que dicha extensión es una de las mejores opciones para contar con agua segura en nuestra cuenca contaminada. Deseamos una fuente de agua potable segura, pero no queremos una opción de “lo tomas o lo dejas” a cualquier precio. Queremos una alternativa de conexión que funcione para nuestras propiedades, que sea razonable para nuestras familias y que sea justa con nosotros: las víctimas de la contaminación. Nuestro costo de vida no debería aumentar debido a una contaminación que no provocamos; los responsables de dicha contaminación deberían ser quienes paguen cualquier costo adicional, tanto ahora como en el futuro.

En tercer lugar, estamos buscando una solución justa, a la contaminación de nuestra agua. Décadas de datos estatales demuestran que la contaminación por nitratos proviene de aguas residuales industriales, fertilizantes y estiércol de grandes empresas, y no de los residentes particulares. Hemos pagado las consecuencias de esta contaminación desenfrenada con nuestra salud y la depreciación del valor de nuestras propiedades. No es justo pedir a las víctimas de la contaminación del agua que paguen dos veces: una vez por sus propios pozos y otra mediante la factura del servicio de agua municipal. La única fuente de agua potable de la región está contaminada; estudios estatales indican que la contaminación va en aumento. Cabe esperar también un incremento en los costos para los usuarios de los sistemas de agua municipal.

Pedimos al condado y al Consorcio que comprendan la injusticia de la situación para los residentes. Les solicitamos que entiendan que vivimos durante décadas con agua peligrosa sin saberlo y que llevamos cuatro años participando en los esfuerzos para solucionar este problema. Sin embargo, la solución no consiste simplemente en vendernos agua, sino en escucharnos y crear una opción de conexión que responda a nuestras inquietudes. Instalar tuberías en el suelo y vendernos agua, mientras que se permite que continúe la contaminación, no es aceptable.

Somos un vecindario unido en busca de soluciones justas. Durante los últimos meses, hemos colaborado con Oregon Rural Action para conversar con prácticamente todos los hogares de la zona de ampliación de West Glen/Paul Smith. Mientras esperamos a que el administrador del condado se comunique con nosotros, hemos compartido la información que el condado facilitó en la reunión pública de octubre de 2025 sobre el proyecto propuesto de ampliación de la conexión de agua municipal, y hemos escuchado las inquietudes de los vecinos.

Hemos creado una petición con cinco términos y condiciones que abordan nuestras inquietudes y que deben cumplirse para que podamos conectarnos a la red de agua municipal. La gran mayoría de los hogares en la zona de ampliación se han unido a los términos y condiciones de nuestra petición.

West Glen Unidos / West Glen United está listo para escuchar sus ideas sobre cómo cumplir con los términos de nuestra petición para lograr una solución justa, durante la próxima reunión del Consorcio en agosto. Solicitamos que la reunión sea de 6 pm a 8 pm y que cuente con servicio de interpretación para que podamos participar.

Por favor, responda antes del jueves 6 de agosto para confirmar la hora de la reunión y la disponibilidad de servicios de interpretación. Quedamos a la espera de su respuesta por escrito.

Adjunto encontrará nuestra petición.

West Glen United / West Glen Unidos

Términos y condiciones de la petición

1. Exigimos una fuente de agua segura, limpia y permanente para nuestras familias, nuestros hogares y nuestro vecindario. El agua no es un privilegio; es un derecho.
2. No volveremos a pagar. Ya hemos pagado demasiado: primero por construir o adquirir nuestros pozos, para mantenerlos y, luego con la pérdida de nuestra salud y el valor de nuestras propiedades. Nosotros no contaminamos nuestros pozos; por lo tanto, es hora de que se haga justicia: los contaminadores deben pagar.
3. Queremos preservar nuestro estilo de vida y nuestra autonomía fuera de los límites de la ciudad. No aceptamos ser anexados a la ciudad de Boardman.
4. Exigimos el derecho de seguir utilizando nuestros pozos para usos no potables con garantías reales y a largo plazo para hacerlo.
5. Tenemos derecho a ser escuchados en las decisiones que afectan nuestras vidas. Exigimos información clara, participación real en las decisiones, y un proceso basado en transparencia, equidad y respeto. Y que quede claro: no toleraremos represalias por alzar la voz.



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