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Statement from Oregon Rural Action Regarding Governor Kotek's Response to May Letter Outlining Community Needs in the Lower Umatilla Basin

It's gratifying to see Governor Kotek once again recognize how serious this crisis is, but words are not enough. This is an ongoing emergency and it needs to be recognized as one – the lives and health of thousands of our neighbors are at risk, and it's the State's responsibility to protect them from further harm. But instead, the Governor is allowing another full year to test the 30% of remaining wells and has set the bar low on retesting at-risk wells. To date, the State has taken no substantive action to rein in the sources of pollution, it has allowed the contamination to continue with relative impunity, and there is no indication in the governor's letter that this will change.

We need the Governor to show courageous leadership by standing up to polluters and choosing to stand with our community. We again call on the Governor to declare an emergency and deliver on her promises by meeting the fundamental needs we outlined in our original letter last month.

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