

## Support Our Efforts to Promote Safe Drinking Water Across the State

Click on the image below to watch the hearing for the private well legislation:



Last week, the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA) held a hearing for [S.2667](#), "An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All," sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge. Foundation President and CEO-Elect, Dr. Amie Shei, provided oral testimony, along with local public health experts, academic researchers, practitioners, and homeowners, all advocating for better drinking water protections for private well owners across the state. A recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

**We need to continue building support in the State House to get this legislation passed, and we need your help.** Please visit [www.whatsinyourwellwater.org](http://www.whatsinyourwellwater.org) today and ask ENRA Committee members to report this bill favorably out of committee. The website comes with pre-loaded messages to make it easy for your voice to be heard.

Currently, there are unequal drinking water protections across the state. Residents with access to public water systems have their drinking water regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

(MassDEP) and routinely tested for contaminants. In contrast, for residents relying on private wells for drinking water, there are no minimum statewide regulations ensuring that the drinking water is safe to consume. Local Boards of Health (BOHs) may enact regulations, but there is a lot of variation across the state. Some BOHs have no regulations or outdated regulations, while others have very strict regulations.

This legislation would be the first step towards ensuring that all Massachusetts residents have access to safe, clean drinking water regardless of where they live. The bill would give MassDEP the authority to develop uniform statewide regulations to ensure the safety of drinking water from private wells.

During the pilot year of the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health, a Round 5 Synergy Initiative project, RCAP Solutions conducted 240 water tests across several Massachusetts towns and discovered that **approximately 27% of wells had levels of contaminants exceeding state health standards and/or suggesting potential health risks**. Please watch [this video](#) to learn more.

The Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to this initiative since 2020.

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