



January 28, 2026

Idaho Legislature
Senate Resources & Environment Committee
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Subject: Support for Pending Rule of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Public Drinking Water Systems – Docket 58-0108-2502, Section 552, Operating Criteria for Public Water Systems

Dear Chairman Burtenshaw and Committee Members:

The Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1987 to provide training and technical assistance to public drinking water and wastewater utilities across Idaho, particularly those serving communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Given the rural nature of our state, IRWA supports over 90 percent of Idaho's public drinking water and wastewater systems.

IRWA worked closely with our members and other stakeholders to participate in the rulemaking process last year. We support the pending rule, which was initiated to revert the 80 psi maximum static distribution system pressure limit to its previous 100 psi limit.

DEQ initiated this rulemaking for IDAPA 58.01.08, "Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems," to address public drinking water system stakeholder concerns regarding the 80 psi maximum distribution system pressure limit in IDAPA 58.01.08.552.01.b.v.

The rule change made to IDAPA 58.01.08.552.01.b.v. became effective on July 1, 2024, and has resulted in unintended impacts to existing public drinking water systems related to distribution system design, construction, and operation. It has increased costs for construction or modification of new and existing public water system distribution mains.

DEQ seeks to remedy this problem by reverting the psi requirement to its previous level to reduce the cost and regulatory burden impacting Idaho businesses. For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee to support the pending rule for DEQ.

Sincerely,



Shelley Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
Idaho Rural Water Association