

# House Joint Memorial 27

Sponsored by Representative DEMBROW; Representatives BARNHART, FREEMAN, HOLVEY, JENSON, WHISNANT, Senators DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, NELSON

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress of United States to increase investment in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Urges Congress of United States to ensure availability of funding for water systems in large and small communities and ensure dedicated funding for updating and repairing drinking water systems in public schools.

Provides for sending copies of memorial to certain public officials.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
2 States of America, in Congress assembled:

3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-  
4 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas generations of Oregonians have enjoyed access to safe, reliable and accessible public  
6 water, but a lack of investment in critical water systems that are relied upon to bring clean acces-  
7 sible water to communities and the aging of public water infrastructure pose significant threats to  
8 the quality, safety, reliability and accessibility of public water; and

9 Whereas water is widely viewed in Oregon as a public trust to be managed for the common good  
10 of the public at large; and

11 Whereas approximately 80 percent of Oregon residents get their drinking water from public  
12 water systems; and

13 Whereas the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 created the Drinking Water  
14 State Revolving Fund for the purpose of assisting states with funding to ensure safe public drinking  
15 water; and

16 Whereas in 2010 Oregon's Department of Human Services determined that \$44 million would be  
17 needed in order to fund projects for protecting existing sources of public drinking water in Oregon;  
18 and

19 Whereas in 2010 the final amount of funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  
20 available for use on Oregon priority projects was \$9,752,311, representing less than 25 percent of the  
21 amount needed; and

22 Whereas according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 45  
23 percent of the investment needs in Oregon for public water infrastructure are in communities with  
24 a population of less than 10,000; and

25 Whereas the Title VI provisions of the federal Clean Water Act created the Clean Water State  
26 Revolving Fund in 1987 for the purpose of assisting states with funding to ensure clean water re-  
27 sources and wastewater systems and treatment facilities for the public; and

28 Whereas in 2011 Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality determined that \$380,821,000  
29

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 will be needed in order to fully fund projects for maintaining clean water resource programs and  
 2 wastewater systems and treatment facilities to protect the public and Oregon water resources; and

3 Whereas in 2011 the funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund predicted to be avail-  
 4 able for use on Oregon priority projects was \$23,017,000, representing six percent of the amount  
 5 needed; and

6 Whereas 50 percent of Oregon priority projects for funding from the Clean Water State Re-  
 7 volving Fund would serve communities with a population of less than 5,000; and

8 Whereas the current levels of funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the  
 9 Clean Water State Revolving Fund are not sufficient to ensure that Oregon's public drinking water  
 10 and wastewater systems and treatment facilities are maintained and protected to benefit the health  
 11 and safety of Oregon residents and benefit Oregon water resources; and

12 Whereas investing in Oregon's public drinking water and wastewater systems and treatment  
 13 facilities will create and support family wage jobs for Oregon workers; and

14 Whereas according to the National Utility Contractors Association, for every \$1 billion that is  
 15 invested nationally in water infrastructure almost 27,000 jobs are created; and

16 Whereas it is critical for Oregon students to have access to safe and clean drinking water; and

17 Whereas there currently is no dedicated federal funding available for updating and repairing  
 18 drinking water systems in public schools; and

19 Whereas protecting the public drinking water and wastewater systems and treatment facilities  
 20 in the nation's communities is of crucial importance and requires an ongoing federal funding com-  
 21 mitment; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

23 (1) The Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon urges the Congress of the  
 24 United States of America to increase investment in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to  
 25 upgrade and repair the nation's aging public drinking water systems in order to ensure that all  
 26 citizens have access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water.

27 (2) The Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to increase  
 28 investment in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade and repair the nation's aging public  
 29 water and wastewater treatment systems in order to ensure the health and safety of the nation's  
 30 urban and rural environments and water resources.

31 (3) The Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to ensure  
 32 that federal funding is available for public water systems in both large and small communities and  
 33 ensure that dedicated funding is made available for updating and repairing drinking water systems  
 34 in the nation's public schools.

35 (4) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to:

36 (a) The Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States;

37 (b) The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr., Vice President of the United States and President of the  
 38 United States Senate;

39 (c) The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the United States Senate;

40 (d) The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and

41 (e) The members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, including Senators Ron Wyden and  
 42 Jeff Merkley and Representatives David Wu, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and  
 43 Kurt Schrader.