



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 27, 2013

Chair Tobias Read  
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 181

Dear Chair Read and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for Senate Bill 181, which will make it easier for small Oregon communities to finance water infrastructure projects by extending the maximum term of loans from the state's Water Fund. This legislation would benefit rural Oregon while collectively enhancing growth and vitality across the state, and is one piece of the City of Portland's agenda in support of rural communities.

There are sizable water infrastructure needs in rural Oregon, with many communities challenged to finance necessary upgrades and maintenance. Senate Bill 181 increases the maximum term of loans from the state's Water Fund from 25 to 30 years. The Water Fund is administered by Business Oregon through the Infrastructure Finance Authority. The modest change in Senate Bill 181 will allow smaller communities to extend payments over a longer period of time, thus making infrastructure improvements more affordable and realistic for small communities.

Access to safe water is important to public health, agriculture, and our environment. The City of Portland supports assistance that helps rural communities deliver clean water. We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner