

April 22, 2013

Chair Dingfelder and Members of the  
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 State Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Dingfelder and Members of the Committee:

The Special Districts Association of Oregon, represents approximately 950 districts across the state providing a variety of services, including potable water and sanitary sewer services, supports the passage of HJM 7

Oregon's municipal water providers play a critical role in our state's economy and, more importantly, our public health system by providing safe and reliable drinking water for a majority of Oregon's population. Furthermore, wastewater treatment providers are instrumental in ensuring that our environment is not adversely impacted by municipal point-source discharges.

Our members are dedicated to ensuring that the drinking water they provide is reliable and safe and that treated wastewater meets or exceeds both federal and state regulations. However, the cost for maintaining and modernizing this type of infrastructure places a heavy burden on our ratepayers. Furthermore, because our communities oftentimes have aging infrastructure the demand or need for these funds has far outpaced the amount of funding that the federal government has been providing through these programs, as outlined in the Memorial.

The federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund are two important components to financing the critical infrastructure that permits our members to meet our many regulatory, quality and performance demands.

We urge you to support HJM 7.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark J. Landauer

Special Districts Association of Oregon