



Representative Michael Dembrow

House District 45 (NE Portland, Maywood Park & Parkrose)

(503) 986-1445

H-487

HJM 7

Reinvesting in Oregon's Water Infrastructure

HJM 7 is a Joint Memorial urging Congress to increase investment in state revolving loan funds that support fixed-rate, low interest loans to communities for repairing and upgrading their public drinking water and wastewater systems. The memorial also asks Congress to provide dedicated funding for updating and repairing drinking water systems in schools.

Currently, the need in Oregon for these projects far outpaces the amount of money that the state receives for our loan programs. The result is that communities either must postpone needed maintenance, or go out on the private bond market and pass the cost on to property owners in the form of higher water bills. This is a particular hardship on smaller communities.

Why do we need Congress to increase the funding for these programs?

- ✓ **It will save residents money.** The fixed-rate, low-interest loans provided under these programs result in lower water bills for consumers.
- ✓ **It will create jobs.** Increased federal investment will bring good jobs to communities across Oregon. According to the National Utility Contractors Association, every \$1 billion invested nationally in water infrastructure creates 27,000 jobs.
- ✓ **It will benefit small communities across Oregon.** 50 percent of Oregon's priority projects for funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund would serve communities with a population of less than 5,000 people.
- ✓ **It will protect the health of Oregon students.** Currently, there is no dedicated federal funding to update and repair drinking water systems in schools. Federal funding would help ensure the quality and safety of our students' drinking water, while relieving districts of the cost of upgrading these systems.
- ✓ **It will preserve our environment.** Maintaining adequate wastewater systems prevents harmful runoff and overflows from entering our rivers, streams and other bodies of water.

Recent Loan Recipients

The state Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds grant millions of dollars in low-interest loans every year to communities all over the state. A sampling of recent loan recipients:

- City of Tillamook, 2005: \$268,000
- City of Coburg, 2005: \$2.7 million
- City of Vernonia, 2006: \$7.3 million
- City of Mosier, 2006: \$1.2 million
- City of Enterprise, 2006: \$4 million
- City of Athena, 2006: \$1 million
- City of Gold Beach, 2006: \$218,500
- City of Echo, 2007: \$10,000
- City of Weston, 2007: \$1.44 million
- City of Nyssa, 2008: \$3.5 million
- Deschutes County, 2009: \$40,000
- Three Sisters Irrigation District, 2009: \$465,340
- City of Drain, 2010: \$90,000
- City of Riddle, 2010: \$2.5 million
- City of Dundee, 2010: \$3.1 million
- City of Irrigon, 2011: \$1.8 million
- Tumalo Irrigation District, 2011: \$2 million