



February 27, 2013

To: Chair Bailey, Vice-Chairs McKeown & Esquivel, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environment

RE: Support for HJM 7

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HJM 7 which would urge Congress to increase the investment in the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. These programs provide a critical funding resource for municipalities in their effort to comply with state and federal standards, provide safe drinking water and improve upon water quality, enhancing the both the livability and safety of our local communities.

This past fall, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) surveyed its members in an effort to better understand the critical infrastructure needs that our cities are facing throughout the state. Based on information gathered from 80 cities, representing 67% of the incorporated population in Oregon, LOC has been able to estimate over \$940 million needed statewide to fund water and wastewater projects. Stormwater projects accounted for an additional \$88 million.

Nearly half of the water projects identified were for water line replacements and repairs with many of these projects needed in order to simply maintain a city's ability to meet immediate needs for a safe water supply. Other projects involve updating of water meters, adding additional security measures for the protection of city water supply, and updating of dilapidated infrastructure which can save in long-term cost while increasing conservation of water in the state.

The city of Reedsport, with a population of 4,145, needs to make improvements to their pump station which serves their downtown business district. The inadequate capacity of this pump station, which was constructed in the early 1970's with a wooden pump structure, results in flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, requiring business owners to place sandbags around their doors to keep waters out. The cost of this project is \$811,000. Reedsport has also identified the need to replace their storm drain and sewer main on Winchester Avenue, which is one of the most heavily used streets within the city. The infrastructure has deteriorated and resulted in sinkholes in the streets. This project is estimated to cost \$1.28 million. The city of Klamath Falls alone has identified over \$117 million in needed water and wastewater projects.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the critical need that our communities face and thank you for your consideration of this bill.

For a complete list of projects please contact Tracy Rutten at the League of Oregon Cities at 503-588-6550 or trutten@orcities.org.