

## **RESOLUTION NO. 14**

**Submitted by AFSCME Council 75**

**Referred to Law and Legislation Committee**

### **SUPPORT THE “RENEW AMERICA’S WATER” CAMPAIGN**

**WHEREAS**, most of the water delivery infrastructure in the United States was constructed over 100 years ago and continues to age and deteriorate; and

**WHEREAS**, the attendant sewer disposal infrastructure is also badly outdated and actually contributes to the contamination of fresh water delivery to homes, schools and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal Funding required to maintain the standards contained in the Clean Water Act(1) and the Safe Drinking Water Act(2) has declined since the Reagan administration and has reached historic lows under the Bush and Obama administrations; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2004 National Water Quality Inventory assessment reported that 44 percent of the river miles, 64 percent of the lake waters, and 30 percent of the bays and estuaries assessed were too polluted to support their designated uses(3); and

**WHEREAS**, public schools, the places where our children spend up to 12 years of their life drinking water, currently have zero Federal dollars devoted to the maintenance of their drinking water systems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that up to 783,000 jobs(4) could be created nationwide if the “Renew America’s Water” campaign is adopted and funded; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Oregon AFL-CIO shall support our unemployed sisters and brothers, support our school children, support our freshwater resources, and

support our residential and business communities by signing on in support of the "Renew America's Water" campaign; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Oregon AFL-CIO shall write to the Oregon Congressional delegation to urge their support of the "Renew America's Water" campaign; and now be it finally

**RESOLVED** that the affiliated Unions of the Oregon AFL-CIO shall also be strongly encouraged to sign on in support of the "Renew America's Water" campaign and to likewise write to the Oregon Congressional delegation to urge their support of the "Renew America's Water" campaign.

(1) Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972 (S. 2770 of the 92nd U.S. Congress)

(2) An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to assure that the public is provided with safe drinking water, and for other purposes (S.433 of the 93rd U.S. Congress)

(3) United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water. "National Water Quality Inventory: Report to Congress 2004 Reporting Cycle." (EPA 841-R-08-001).

(4) National Utility Contractors Association. [Press Release]. "New CWC Report Demonstrates Immediate Economic Impact of Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Investment?" January 28, 2009

AFSCMECOUNCIL75:sh

opeiu#11

afl-cio

Sept 2011