

# House Joint Memorial 7

Sponsored by Representatives DEMBROW, KOMP; Representatives CLEM, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GORSEK, HOLVEY, JOHNSON, KRIEGER, LIVELY, MCKEOWN, REARDON, THOMPSON, WHISNANT, WITT, Senators EDWARDS, GIROD, HASS, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, OLSEN, ROBLAN, STARR

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to increase investment in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Urges Congress to ensure availability of funding for water systems in large and small communities and ensure dedicated funding for updating and repairing drinking water systems in public schools.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in  
5 legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas generations of Oregonians have enjoyed access to safe, reliable and accessible public  
7 water, but a lack of investment in critical water systems that are relied upon to bring clean, ac-  
8 cessible water to communities and the aging of public water infrastructure pose significant threats  
9 to the quality, safety, reliability and accessibility of public water; and

10 Whereas water is widely viewed in Oregon as a public trust to be managed for the common good  
11 of the public at large; and

12 Whereas approximately 80 percent of Oregon residents get their drinking water from public  
13 water systems; and

14 Whereas the federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 created the Drinking Water  
15 State Revolving Fund for the purpose of assisting states with funding to ensure safe public drinking  
16 water; and

17 Whereas in 2010 the Department of Human Services determined that \$44 million would be  
18 needed in order to fund projects for protecting existing sources of public drinking water in Oregon;  
19 and

20 Whereas in 2010 the final amount of funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  
21 available for use on Oregon priority projects was \$9,752,311, representing less than 25 percent of the  
22 amount needed; and

23 Whereas according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 45  
24 percent of the investment needs in Oregon for public water infrastructure are in communities with  
25 a population of less than 10,000; and

26 Whereas the Title VI provisions of the federal Clean Water Act created the Clean Water State  
27 Revolving Fund in 1987 for the purpose of assisting states with funding to ensure clean water re-  
28 sources and wastewater systems and treatment facilities for the public; and

29 Whereas in 2011 the Department of Environmental Quality determined that \$380,821,000 will be

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 needed in order to fully fund projects for maintaining clean water resource programs and  
2 wastewater systems and treatment facilities to protect the public and Oregon water resources; and

3       Whereas in 2011 the funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund predicted to be avail-  
4 able for use on Oregon priority projects was \$23,017,000, representing six percent of the amount  
5 needed; and

6       Whereas 50 percent of Oregon priority projects for funding from the Clean Water State Re-  
7 volving Fund would serve communities with a population of less than 5,000; and

8       Whereas the current levels of funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the  
9 Clean Water State Revolving Fund are not sufficient to ensure that Oregon's public drinking water  
10 and wastewater systems and treatment facilities are maintained and protected to benefit the health  
11 and safety of Oregon residents and benefit Oregon water resources; and

12       Whereas investing in Oregon's public drinking water and wastewater systems and treatment  
13 facilities will create and support family wage jobs for Oregon workers; and

14       Whereas according to the National Utility Contractors Association, for every \$1 billion that is  
15 invested nationally in water infrastructure, almost 27,000 jobs are created; and

16       Whereas it is critical for Oregon students to have access to safe and clean drinking water; and

17       Whereas there is currently no dedicated federal funding available for updating and repairing  
18 drinking water systems in public schools; and

19       Whereas protecting the public drinking water and wastewater systems and treatment facilities  
20 in the nation's communities is of crucial importance and requires an ongoing federal funding com-  
21 mitment; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

23       (1) The Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon urges the Congress of the  
24 United States of America to increase investment in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to  
25 upgrade and repair the nation's aging public drinking water systems in order to ensure that all  
26 citizens have access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water.

27       (2) The Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to in-  
28 crease investment in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to upgrade and repair the nation's aging  
29 public water and wastewater treatment systems in order to ensure the health and safety of the  
30 nation's urban and rural environments and water resources.

31       (3) The Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to ensure  
32 that federal funding is available for public water systems in both large and small communities and  
33 ensure that dedicated funding is made available for updating and repairing drinking water systems  
34 in the nation's public schools.

35       (4) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President and Vice President of the United  
36 States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each  
37 member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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