



May 14, 2015

Capitol Construction Subcommittee
Joint Ways and Means Committee

Dear Committee members:

Washington County Board of County Commissioners supports the following water investments. As you may know Washington County has been working toward a water supply project to extend the water supply in Washington County by 40-50 years. This effort is being done to meet the expected long term growth in residents, economic growth and conservation needs in the Tualatin basin.

Other regions of Oregon are going through a similar process, but have an incredible challenge ahead of them. The programmatic funding requests from Water Resources Department for budget needs along with bonding are very important and we urge your support.

Specifically we are supportive of HB 5030, lotter bond requests critically important for water quality planning, support and project funding under Oregon's **Integrated Water Resources Strategy**.

- **Package #106 provides grant funds for feasibility studies for counties and communities to develop water storage, reuse, and conservation projects. WRD currently has \$750,000 in its base budget for such studies. This package would add an additional \$2 million for SB 1069 (2008) feasibility study grants, and add staffing capacity (.75 FTE; currently at .25 FTE) to administer and oversee the grant program. Cost of issuance and debt service is \$150,000.**
- **Package #113 funds projects that grow the water supply of the state, the objective of these WRD requests. Water is essential for economic growth, environmental health, and the welfare of all Oregonians. This package recapitalizes the Water Supply Development Account (established by SB 839 in 2013) and the Water Supply Fund. This includes \$17.25 million for grants and loans for water projects, as well as a position to administer and oversee grants and loans (\$187k GF). Cost of issuance and debt service is \$1.3 million.**
- **Package #115 supports Place-Based Planning and project development. Counties need this technical assistance to convene communities of interest and successfully develop place-based integrated water resources plans that will identify how we will**

meet our current and future out-of-stream and instream water needs. This package includes **\$750,000 for grants to help communities who wish to proceed.** It would allow the state to proactively work with communities to identify, evaluate, and develop water resources solutions. This request would expand the WRD water supply team by 6 FTE (\$1.2 million GF), adding a water supply project manager, water supply engineer, finance analyst, water supply technical coordinator, and two place-based planning coordinators. Cost of issuance and debt service is \$56,000

Sincerely,

Jim McCauley
Government Affairs
Washington County