From: Susie Smith
To: JWMCC Exhibits
Subject: SB 5505--Authorization of Bond Funding
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 2:13:56 PM

Please forward to the Joint Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee for the Public Hearing scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2017.

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and
Members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Sent via e-mail to: jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) supports the bond funding authorization provided in SB 5505 for the Department of Environmental Quality's Environmental Data Management System (EDMS) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). ACWA is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management utilities, along with associated professionals. Our 135 statewide members are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality. Our members provide wastewater and stormwater services to over 2.4 million Oregonians, serving over 64% of Oregon's homes and businesses.

The loans provided by the CWSRF program are critical to wastewater and stormwater management agencies across the state that are tasked with replacing aging infrastructure in an age of ever increasing costs and regulatory complexities. These low-cost loans are vital financing tools for our agencies, and the projects they fund are central to ongoing protection of Oregon's waters, community health, and our economy.

The DEQ EDMS project is a necessary first step to building systems and electronic infrastructure to support efficient and effective implementation of the Department's regulatory programs. The hodge podge of antiquated systems with which the Department struggles cannot support the variety of water quality programs they are tasked with implementing. The current status of the Department's processes and data management systems is one of the reasons DEQ is plagued with permit backlogs and insufficient water quality data and information on which to base sound policy decisions. Collaboration with local government and other regulated community stakeholders in the development of this project will be vital to its success, and ACWA fully expects the Department will ensure that appropriate expertise and input is solicited to ensure this project's success.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan L. Smith

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