



Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
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January 23, 2019

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE, HR A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 27 – OHA Drinking Water Services fee authority

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports Senate Bill 27, which revises existing fee authority for the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services program (OHA DWS) to change the way the program assesses fees on water suppliers. OHA DWS performs work that is vital to protecting the public health and safety of Oregon residents, including functions essential to the work of the Portland Water Bureau, which provides clean, safe drinking water to over one quarter of the state's population. The City of Portland supports a strong, stable, and sustainable program at OHA DWS.

The Portland Water Bureau relies on the work of the OHA DWS program for support regarding Safe Drinking Water Act compliance. For example, the program performs operator certification, water quality regulation and monitoring, and water system inspections. OHA DWS also responds to water system emergencies and provides technical assistance to water providers.

Despite providing programs that protect public health and support essential Portland Water Bureau functions, these programs are often proposed for cuts or occasionally for major changes in funding sources during the state budget process. The program cannot afford a further reduction in staff. The proposed change in fee authority will help ensure that this vital program is adequately funded, sustainable, and highly effective.

The City of Portland urges your support of SB 27. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael Stuhr, P.E.
Administrator