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January 23, 2019

Senator Monnes-Anderson  
Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 27 – Oregon Health Authority – Drinking Water Fee Proposal

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson;

Thank you for taking time to consider testimony on this important Senate Bill. Public drinking water professionals as well as the State Legislature both understand that clean, reliable, safe drinking water is essential for the health and well-being of all Oregonians as well as all who visit and do business in Oregon.

The Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program (DWP) regulates all public drinking water systems in Oregon. Over the last decade, funding for DWP has largely been flat both from the Federal Government's Primacy Grant through the US Environmental Protection Agency and from the State of Oregon. While applying a fee to public water systems to support DWP going forward may seem like a reasonable solution, the responsibility to fund such an important statewide program should rest on all Oregonians since all Oregonians directly benefit from the work of DWP not just the roughly 80% of Oregonians who live within a public water system service area.

I encourage the State to consider supporting the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program with State General Funds to create a much more stable funding base that is supported by all Oregonians. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and perspective on this important funding issue.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Grimm".

Michael W. Grimm, P.E.  
General Manager  
West Slope Water District