



April 2, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

The City of Warrenton owns and maintains 35 separate tide gates that discharge stormwater from the interior of a levee system surrounding the city. Approximately eighty-percent (80%) of the city is below high tide, and that translates to nearly 4,000 acres of land. All City of Warrenton tide gates are located below sea level.

Many City of Warrenton tide gates are original construction and have been in service since the 1940s. The city has deferred maintenance on some tide gates knowing that ODFW fish-passage rules might increase permitting time and construction costs.

SB 812 does not change the regulatory process, but it does appropriate moneys to fund contracted services for coordination of tide gate permitting. It also provides for two positions within the Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide technical support on tide gate projects, and to provide fish passage engineering services related to tide gates.

Warrenton supports efforts to assist counties, municipalities, diking districts and landowners currently struggling to comply with tide gate maintenance and repair requirements. As such, the City of Warrenton supports SB 812 and urges your most favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Balensifer III
Mayor