



PNWS-AWWA

OREGON WATER UTILITY COUNCIL (OWUC)

**Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association
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March 3, 2021

The Honorable Senator Lee Beyer and Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE, H-272
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 5023: Policy Option Package 107: Special Public Works Fund

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) is a committee of the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association and is made up of cities, special districts, public utility districts, and private companies in support of the water sector. Collectively, OWUC members supply domestic water to more than 75% of the population of Oregon. Our mission is to promote and monitor legislation, public policies, and regulations that will ensure our communities are provided drinking water of highest quality and sufficient quantities at a reasonable cost.

Water providers in Oregon face diverse challenges, including population growth with subsequent increases in water demand, uncertain effects of climate disruption, aging infrastructure, new and evolving water quality regulations, and changes in water utility management in a COVID-19 environment. Members of OWUC across Oregon work every day to balance these challenges while meeting high customer expectations for quality water, service, and affordability.

If passed, Policy Option Package 107 for the Special Works Fund will provide needed funding for local infrastructure needs. These infrastructure investments will ensure the capacity of our municipal water systems to meet ever growing residential and commercial water demands. At the same time, these investments will create needed high wage construction jobs in every corner of our state.

OWUC strongly supports House Bill 5023, Policy Option Package 107, providing \$50 million in lottery funding to the Special Public Works Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel A. Cary
OWUC Chair