



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair
The Honorable Mark Owens, Co-Chair
The Honorable Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
House Committee on Water
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Portland, OR 97301

RE: City of Beaverton Supports HB 3103

Dear Chair Helm, Co-Chairs Owens and Reardon, and members of the House Committee on Water:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the City of Beaverton's strong support of HB 3103, which clarifies that the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) can resume accepting and processing applications to change the use of stored water.

The City of Beaverton is an active partner and part owner of the Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS), an intergovernmental entity formed by the Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) and the Cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton. WWSS was formed to manage planned growth in the service areas and provide an additional, resilient water supply for Washington County residents. When complete in 2026, WWSS will be one of Oregon's most seismically resilient water systems, capable of better withstanding natural disasters and protecting public health.

The ability to transfer the type of use for stored water is important for water supply management and is essential to ensuring the eventual transfer of federally stored water in the Willamette Basin for municipal use. However, the Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) recently determined they lacked statutory authority to process transfers of stored water after decades of established practice. This leaves municipal water providers in the Willamette Basin without a path to access stored water for future needs.

The City of Beaverton was granted a water right permit in 2014 by OWRD that allows it to draw up to 21 million gallons of water per day from the Willamette River for potable water uses. The City's investment in WWSS will allow it to receive up to five million gallons of water per day from the new water supply agency using Beaverton's existing water right. However, the City's water right permit will likely be regulated (reduced or cut-off) when water in the Willamette River reach low summertime levels. HB 3103 will allow the City to apply for stored water behind the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dams to be released for the City's future use. If passed, the bill would lead to future summer reliability in the City's Willamette River water supply for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend our support to HB 3103. Please feel welcome to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Lynn".

Chad Lynn, Director of Public Works
City of Beaverton