

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 15: Oregon Health Authority Emerging Contaminants

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Gelser Blouin

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$9.9 million in the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Oregon Health Authority in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the implementation of a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund water infrastructure projects addressing public health risks related to emerging contaminants.

The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 provided supplemental funding to state drinking water and clean water revolving fund programs to address emerging contaminants through investment in safe drinking water infrastructure. The \$9.9 million is for the first of five years, with a total of \$55.9 million to be allocated in annual increments by the Environmental Protection Agency. The funding may be used to provide forgivable loans and grants, 25% must be provided to disadvantaged communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people, and no state matching funds are required.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.