



February 1, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter in Support of HB 3097

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Beaverton supports HB 3097, which will allow a municipal corporation to apply for a certificate to use a water right for hydroelectric purposes with the written authorization from the holder of the underlying water right. These changes will help to facilitate the inclusion of hydroelectric generation in our capital improvement projects moving forward. The upgrading of our water system to use renewable energy is an action identified in the 2019 Beaverton Climate Action Plan.

Beaverton has coordinated with partner agencies in the past to have them obtain certificates to use water rights for hydroelectric power. The proposed language would streamline that process and cut down on unnecessary oversight by allowing Beaverton to obtain that certificate with approval from its partner agencies. Beaverton is currently undertaking a large capital improvement program to upgrade its water system and desires to include hydropower generation in projects to meet its climate action goals. The use of hydroelectric power can also help the City power remote monitoring and control systems at sites that would be cost prohibitive to power through traditional methods. This would improve the resiliency and reliability of our water system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 3097. Please feel welcome to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Weinheimer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Weinheimer
Assistant City Manager
City of Beaverton