



CITY OF MYRTLE POINT

In the Heart of the Myrtlewoods

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February 13, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: Supporting House Bill 3125

Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 3125 establishing a Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. In 2021, federal funding was made available to states for the first time for low-income water and sewer rate assistance, with Oregon receiving just over \$14 million. The Low-Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWA) program was established using these funds. Locally the program is administered by Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA). Since the inception of the program, a number of water-sewer rate payers in Myrtle Point have benefitted from assistance under the LIHWA program. The City of Myrtle Point has already received payments through the program totaling approximately \$2,500 and is continuing to work with ORCCA regarding assistance for additional water-sewer customers. Without this program, some customers would find themselves in a position of being unable to pay their water-sewer bills and facing shut-off notices from the city. This program has provided assistance to qualifying customers at their time of need. Please feel free to contact me with any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Darin Nicholson
City Manager

Mayor:
Samantha Clayburn

Councilors:
Michael Hogan
Gary Sullivan
Mike Wood
Berea Gibbons
Ivan Hawker
Kimberly Krantz