



## CITY OF BEND

March 6, 2023

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### MAYOR PRO-TEM

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Ken Helm, Chair

House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for HB 3231

Dear Committee Members,

The City of Bend, Oregon is in support of HB 3231 which directs Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) and other stakeholders, to address regulatory barriers and develop technical assistance resources to support new and expanded water reuse opportunities.

Oregon's permitting requirements are decades old, and wastewater utilities have found the regulatory process to be difficult, and sometimes too complex and costly, to navigate. This has deterred utilities from pursuing the types of water quality compliance projects that can have multiple environmental, community, and economic benefits. At the same time, DEQ has accelerated its pace of renewing wastewater discharge permits, and publicly owned treatment facilities face new or increased permit requirements for which beneficial reuse or discharges can provide great multi-benefit sustainable solutions.

The City of Bend is very much interested in exploring water reuse opportunities as part of its long-term integrated water management strategy. However, current regulatory policies at both DEQ and WRD make these opportunities far less likely for interested utilities.

HB 3231 is a step towards greater water reuse opportunities across the state.

Sincerely,

Mike Buettner

Utilities Director, City of Bend

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