



Public Works

387 NE Third Street – Prineville, OR 97754

Email: ckaiser@cityofprineville.com

541.447.5627

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Representative Helm, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and water

RE: Letter of Support for HB 3231 on Behalf of the City of Prineville,

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the City of Prineville to express support for HB 3231. This bill would address regulatory barriers and develop technical assistance resources to support new and expanded beneficial reuse/recycling and land application of reclaimed wastewater in Oregon. This is expected to improve Oregon's regulatory framework so that wastewater utilities can access an environmentally protective permitting path that is less onerous, and less costly and complex to open up a broader range of project opportunities.

The current regulatory process for wastewater utilities, including the City of Prineville, is difficult, and often complex and costly; to the extent that it deters water quality compliance projects that have environmental, economic, and community benefits from progressing. HB 3231 will help to alleviate regulatory barriers and increase project opportunities that can significantly benefit our state. Beneficial applications of reclaimed water offer an opportunity to address many challenges facing Oregon including adaptation and resiliency with growing climate change impacts, water quality, drought, depletion of surface and ground water, and affordability and sustainability of water utility services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this important bill.

Respectfully,

Casey Kaiser
Public Works Director