

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson & Kropf, and members of the committee,

My name is Brett Blofsky, and I am the District Manager for South Suburban Sanitary District. I'm also a lifelong resident of the Klamath Basin and I've witnessed the severe multi-year drought and the tension around water in this community for the past several decades.

The District provides wastewater treatment services to approximately 23,000 citizens in the south suburban area of Klamath Falls and we are required to make major upgrades to our treatment facility to comply with new regulations, which will result in much higher quality water discharge.

Rather than only focusing on the burden alone of the \$75 million cost to our District, and its impact on our citizens, the Leadership identified ways to re-use this highly treated wastewater to provide an overall benefit to our community and to the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge.

After a thorough analysis by West Yost and Associates and our in-house experts and leadership, of all the possible alternatives with our Facility Plan upgrade, we have determined the re-use concept as the most innovative and fiscally responsible direction that provides the maximum benefit to the public and the environment.

The passage of HB 2765 and the -2 Amendment will not only save the citizens of our District approximately \$20 million, but it will also avoid disturbing approximately 9 miles of the environment to lay and install the pipe to convey the water to the target re-use area, an area of our community and a wildlife refuge that has been hard hit by the severe multi-year drought.

Since originally testifying in support of this bill to the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee, we have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with several LOCAL groups in our community to garner support for its passage. As a result of these meetings, the -2 Amendment was drafted and filed along with official support letters from the Modoc Nation, the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, and the Klamath Water Users Association.

HB 2765 and the -2 Amendment is a win-win-win for OUR local environment & community, and it is critical to the future of our District. I respectfully encourage you to vote YES on this bill.

Thank you very much for your time.