

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Digest: Makes a yearly celebration of water workers in this state that takes place in October. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Designates the first Saturday of October of each year through the end of the Sunday of the following weekend as Water Professionals Appreciation Week.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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Relating to Water Professionals Appreciation Week.

Whereas water is the lifeblood of Oregon, and no community or sector of the economy, from agriculture to manufacturing to tourism, can thrive or grow without safe and reliable access to water; and

Whereas reliable and effective delivery of public drinking water and sanitary sewer services is essential to protecting public health, to supporting community growth, to the production of housing, to livability and to the efficient operation of safety services, including critical fire protection services; and

Whereas technological advances by Oregon's thousands of water professionals have made this state's public drinking water and treated wastewater meet some of the most stringent water quality standards in the United States; and

Whereas water professionals are essential stewards of our state's natural environment, working diligently to protect both in-stream and out-of-stream water resources; and

Whereas through careful management of water withdrawals, treatment processes and discharge practices, water professionals help maintain healthy

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 river and stream ecosystems, support fish and wildlife habitats and safeguard  
2 water quality for downstream users; and

3 Whereas the tireless dedication of Oregon's water professionals ensures  
4 that environmental protections are balanced with community needs, advanc-  
5 ing practices that promote conservation, sustainability and the long-term  
6 resilience of Oregon's watersheds; and

7 Whereas regardless of where it originates, drinking water from public  
8 water systems is filtered, cleaned, tested and distributed in a process care-  
9 fully managed by water system operators certified by the Oregon Health  
10 Authority; and

11 Whereas approximately 77 percent of Oregonians are actively served by  
12 public water systems that deliver safe drinking water each day through an  
13 extensive network of pipelines and distribution systems; and

14 Whereas hundreds of millions of gallons of wastewater is managed each  
15 day through thousands of miles of sanitary sewers and more than 300 do-  
16 mestic wastewater treatment plants in Oregon, protecting both public health  
17 and the environment; and

18 Whereas Oregon's water professionals utilize innovative approaches to  
19 address both the state's decreasing water supply and impacts on water qual-  
20 ity due to environmental changes, including significantly expanding the re-  
21 use of treated wastewater; and

22 Whereas water professionals at local public drinking water and  
23 wastewater agencies work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including on  
24 holidays, to protect public health and the environment, to plan for the future  
25 of our most essential resource, to maintain and upgrade crucial water stor-  
26 age, filtering and delivery systems and to improve the safety and resiliency  
27 of local water supplies; and

28 Whereas the League of Oregon Cities, the Special Districts Association  
29 of Oregon, the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, WateReuse  
30 Pacific Northwest, the Oregon Water Utility Council and the Oregon Asso-  
31 ciation of Water Utilities all acknowledge and celebrate the essential work

1 of the water professionals employed by their agency members; now, therefore,  
2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 (1) **The first Saturday of October of each year through the end of**  
4 **the Sunday of the following weekend is designated as Water Profes-**  
5 **sionals Appreciation Week.**

6 (2) **The purpose of the designation is to:**

7 (a) **Encourage public water agencies and wastewater agencies to**  
8 **offer tours, open houses and other events to educate Oregonians on**  
9 **the important functions of those agencies; and**

10 (b) **Encourage all Oregonians to learn about the water and**  
11 **wastewater industries in Oregon and consider careers in this critical**  
12 **field.**

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