



March 5, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3634 - Operator-in-Training and Water Workforce Program

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala & Harbick, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Nehalem, we express our strong support for House Bill 3634, which establishes the Water Workforce Program (Operator-in-Training) to address the critical need for drinking water and wastewater operators.

This is a top priority for our city, and we are grateful for the committee's time.

Reliable water infrastructure is essential for public health and community well-being, yet cities face a growing crisis as a significant portion of the workforce nears retirement. Without trained replacements, Oregon risks disruptions to safe drinking water and wastewater services. HB 3634 is a proactive solution to recruit, train, and retain skilled professionals in this vital field.

We urge your support for HB 3634 and stand ready to collaborate on its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Longfellow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lori Longfellow  
City Manager  
City of Nehalem  
[llongfellow@nehalem.gov](mailto:llongfellow@nehalem.gov)