
CITY OF PORTLAND UTILITIES

Bureau of Environmental Services

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**Portland Water Bureau**

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February 2, 2026

Representative Helm, Co-Chair

Representative Owens, Co-Chair

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

900 Court Street NE, HR D

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland strongly supports HB 4005, which creates Water Professionals Appreciation Week. Water and wastewater professionals provide essential services that keep our communities healthy, safe, and thriving.

Portland's water professionals include water and wastewater system operators certified by OHA, maintenance and construction professionals, regulatory and water quality professionals, engineering, design, and planning professionals, watershed and environmental stewards, technology, policy, and communications professionals. Water and wastewater professionals ensure our communities have excellent drinking water every minute of every day and wastewater and stormwater are managed to protect and support public health, a strong economy, and vibrant natural landscapes with healthy watersheds.

Water and wastewater utilities around the state are facing challenges finding qualified staff to operate our water systems due to a wave of retirements and competition from other sectors. Portland welcomes this opportunity to showcase to all Oregonians the importance of water utilities and the excellent careers provided in this field.

The City of Portland urges you to support HB 4005 establishing Water Professionals Appreciation Week. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ting Lu
Public Utilities Director
City of Portland

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