



ROSEBURG URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

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February 17, 2026

Chair Senator Golden and Vice Chair Senator Nash
Members of the Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR, 97301

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Baird; I am the General Manager of Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority. I would like to express my support for HB 4005 and thank the supporters for introducing this very important bill to provide recognition for Water Professionals in Oregon.

Water Professionals working in the water and wastewater profession have for years been the unsung heroes of our communities and state. Working tirelessly to ensure that the communities we live in have safe water for our homes and businesses and providing clean healthy water returned to the waters in our state.

These professionals have been identified as First Responders to meet immediate needs of our community and neighbors to maintain critical services. During the Pandemic, Water Professionals continued to work to maintain the essential services all of us need to live in our homes.

It is appropriate that we, as a State, recognize the contributions these essential workers provide, and for the support, skills and knowledge they bring to every community in our State.

It is my hope that through this public support and recognition all Oregonians will understand the vital service that these women and men provide for our communities. I believe that by elevating the recognition of the work our Water Professionals contribute others will see being a Water Professional as a fulfilling career that they would like to explore. Today we are facing an aging community of water professionals and too few new professionals entering the workforce. It is my hope that by bringing to light the essential work these individuals do every day a true understanding of our community's reliance on the Water Professional will be attained.

Thank you,

Jim Baird
General Manager
Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority

