

To: Chair Golden; Vice-Chair Nash; Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire

From: Tracy Rainey, Government Relations Manager, Clean Water Services

Date: February 17, 2026

Re: Support for HB 4005 – Water Professionals Appreciation Week

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testify in support of HB 4005 which aims to recognize and appreciate the critical role that Oregon’s water workforce plays in protecting public health and the environment, maintaining critical and complex infrastructure systems, and ensuring the livability and viability of Oregon communities.

The dedication of Oregon’s highly trained operators, technicians, engineers, and other specialists within the water sector may not be frequently thought about, but these professionals are responsible for maintaining highly complex infrastructure systems and delivering critical services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including on holidays.

We are hopeful that passage of HB 4005 will elevate important issues including:

- the need for thoughtful discussions about the workforce opportunities that exist within the water workforce and how the state can partner with local government and community water systems to respond to and better prepare for current and future workforce needs;
- demonstrating the many great career opportunities that exist within this sector;
- the important role that water infrastructure plays in community viability (including economic development and housing), environmental protection, public health and public safety, and the need for enhanced investment in these critical water infrastructure systems, including technical assistance, to address aging infrastructure and other challenges;
- opportunities to enhance overall awareness and understanding of the important work that water professionals do and ways that Oregonians can help to further understand, appreciate and protect critical water infrastructure systems.

Again, we want to thank the committee for your consideration of HB 4005 and we urge your support.

Thank you.