



Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, Oregon 97204-1926
Information: 503-823-7404
www.portlandoregon.gov/water



March 26, 2019

Senator Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Nosse, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 5525 – POP 418 OHA Drinking Water Services position authority

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Portland supports Policy Option Package 418, within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) budget, to reflect a fee structure revision for the OHA Drinking Water Services program (OHA DWS). POP 418 is supported by SB 27-A, which revises existing fee authority for the OHA DWS to change the way the program assesses fees on water suppliers. OHA DWS performs work that is vital to protecting the public health and safety of Oregon residents, including functions essential to the work of the Portland Water Bureau, which provides clean, safe drinking water to over one quarter of the state's population. The City of Portland supports a strong, stable, and sustainable program at OHA DWS.

The Portland Water Bureau relies on the work of the OHA DWS program for support regarding Safe Drinking Water Act compliance. For example, the program performs operator certification, water quality regulation and monitoring, and water system inspections. OHA DWS also responds to water system emergencies and provides technical assistance to water providers.

Despite providing programs that protect public health and support essential Portland Water Bureau functions, these programs are often proposed for cuts or occasionally for major changes in funding sources during the state budget process. The program cannot afford a further reduction in staff. The proposed position authority and associated change in fee authority in SB 27-A will help ensure that this vital program is adequately funded, sustainable, and highly effective.

The City of Portland urges your support of POP 418 within SB 5525. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael Stuhr, P.E.
Administrator, Portland Water Bureau
City of Portland

Please contact us for translation or interpretation, or for accommodations for people with disabilities.

More information · Más información · Thêm thông tin · 欲了解更多信息 · Дополнительная информация

Mai multe informații · Подробности · Macluumaad dheeri ah · अधिक सूचना · Tichikin Poraus

www.portlandoregon.gov/water/access · 503-823-7432 (TTY: 503-823-6868, Relay: 711)