



Working with community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies across the state to protect Oregon's water quality since 1987

81 East 14th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401
(541) 485-0165 www.oracwa.org

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Subject: Testimony in Support of Policy Option Package (POP) 107—Funding for the Special Public Works Project Funds in the Business Oregon Budget

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of POP 107 in the proposed budget for Business Oregon in HB 5023. ACWA is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies and the professional consulting firms that serve them. ACWA's members across the state provide wastewater and stormwater management services to over 2.5 million Oregonians, serving about 70% of Oregon's businesses and homes.

Clean water is at the top of many Oregonians' list of priorities. The work our members do is fundamental to the economic base that allows towns to grow and thrive. In Oregon, water and wastewater infrastructure investments have fallen behind the need to maintain safe, accessible, and abundant clean water for Oregonians and for ecosystem health. Sustained access to affordable funding and financing for public water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to public water/wastewater utilities as we tackle the challenges of aging infrastructure and increasing water quality challenges. The funding provided by Business Oregon's Special Public Works Fund is a key tool available cities, counties, and special districts in financing public works infrastructure, and we urge you to continue to fund the program at the level proposed in POP 107.

At the national level, the American Society of Civil Engineers provides staggering estimates of the funding needed to repair and maintain these systems over the next 25 years: \$1 trillion for drinking water, \$271 billion for wastewater, and \$144 billion for dams and levees. New investments are needed to find solutions that work in a world of climate change, population growth, complex regulations, changing community values, and decreasing federal investment.

Oregon needs more state investment in water infrastructure. Please support funding for the Special Works Fund in Policy Option Package 107.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Smith
Executive Director