

**Testimony to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation  
and Economic Development  
HB 5023**

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**Karen Lewotsky, Rural Partnerships and Water Policy Director  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council strongly supports POP 107 as included in HB 5023, the proposed budget for Business Oregon.

Much of Oregon's infrastructure is aging, failing or inadequate to meet current needs. Across the state, problems related to water infrastructure will total over \$1.25 trillion over the next 25 years. Drinking water, wastewater treatment, water storage and flood prevention infrastructure are all at stake. Many of these projects serve rural Oregonians and low-income Oregonians, communities lacking in financial resources for such projects. Without increased investment of state funds through the Special Public Works Fund, we will not be able to address their needs.

OEC urges you to invest in Oregon's water future by supporting the budget request for the Special Public Works Fund (POP 107 and HB 5023).