



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 613, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Mingus Mapps, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

February 1, 2022

Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
900 Court St. NE, HR 170
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4067

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 4067 which amends the law governing the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District authorized by SB 431 in 2019. The Bureau of Environmental Services manages Portland's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to protect public health and the environment. The levees along the Columbia River are important infrastructure that serve the entire region; they protect more than 7,500 residents and an area with annual economic activity that exceeds \$16 billion.

Our state continues to develop and thrive but, meanwhile, our infrastructure is aging. The City of Portland has been working with the existing Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts in northern Multnomah County to fully stand up the new Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District (UFSWQD). HB 4067 will address ambiguities in the current law to help speed up the creation of a revenue structure for the new district and accelerate the transition to a single, more modern and sustainable district capable of meeting the region's flood safety, climate resilience, and water quality needs. More specifically, the bill will: clarify the authorities of the "Initial Board" and the "Board of Directors," reinforce the financial tools available for use by the new district, clarify the levels of funding needed to initiate the process for dissolving the existing Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts, clarify and speed up the transition between the initial and permanent boards, and address operational needs related to obstruction to the district's work on the levees.

The City of Portland urges your support of HB 4067. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov or at 503-823-6726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Director