



## Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

21 February 2023

**TO:** Chair Helm, Vice-Chair, Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water.

**RE: Letter in Support of HB 3163**

Dear Chairman Helm, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water.

The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP) would like to express our strong endorsement of **HB 3163** in support of continued funding for Place-Based Water Planning in Oregon's Central Coast and communities across the State. At this critical juncture in addressing Oregon's water issues, **HB 3163** will provide certainty as to a base level of resources available for the evaluation, planning, and implementation of future regional water planning activities.

Comprehensive, publicly-vetted water planning is necessary to respond to the challenges of climate, infrastructure, conservation, and development in Oregon. Rooted in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, **the Place-Based Planning approach provides a space for communities to work collaboratively with agency partners to understand and articulate their water resources challenges and needs, as well as identify and implement potential solutions to those needs.** These efforts bring water issues and solutions together ahead of conflict and litigation, providing a tangible value to Oregon's communities as well as the resource.

Over the past seven years, support from the Oregon Water Resources Department has enabled the MCWPP to build a diverse, community-based collaborative, establish governance structures, create a communication and outreach plan, develop water quantity and quality assessments for the planning area, and complete work on current and future water demand analyses.

The complex role of water in our society and the challenges of consensus-based planning around an issue that people are so passionate about means that Place-Based Planning requires ample funding, time, and intentionality. Working with members of the HB 5006 Working Group, it was apparent from information presented by the four Pilot Place Based Planning efforts that this approach offered tools necessary to guide a successful public engagement process. We strongly encourage you to support HB 3163 and ask that your fellow Legislators appropriate funds for this important work.

Thank you for your consideration,

Adam Denlinger

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Vice-Chair, SDAO Water/Wastewater Legislative Committee

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*The MCWPP is a gathering of regional partners who work collaboratively to understand and balance the water needs of Mid-Coast communities, environments and economies.*

*More information about its ongoing work is online at [www.midcoastwaterpartners.com](http://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com).*