



To: Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, Committee Members  
From: League of Oregon Cities

March 6, 2023

The League of Oregon Cities supports common sense water policies that move Oregon's economy, communities, and environment toward a secure water future. House Bill 3163 (HB 3163) provides important tools and problem-solving opportunities for integrated water management planning strategies at the local level.

HB 3163 will continue the voluntary place-based planning program for the purpose of facilitating critical water management conversations among local stakeholders. The identification of needs at the local level and among diverse stakeholder interests can result in the development of innovative partnerships and sound solutions in order to tackle some of the more complex water-related challenges across our state. However, the costs associated with meeting our water needs greatly exceed available resources.

**The League of Oregon Cities agrees with other water stakeholder associations that we need to maintain local control of these complex water management conversations and have continuous sensible funding opportunities including feasibility grants, loans, and planning resources available. Adequate funding and state oversight are critical components to the program continuing in a successful manner.**

In summary, the League of Oregon Cities supports the continuation of place-based planning framework which provides funding for voluntary, locally-driven planning processes that will enable communities across the state to address complex water-related challenges and opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Niki Iverson,  
League of Oregon Cities Water Policy Committee Chair  
Water Director for City of Hillsboro

Michael Martin, Lobbyist  
League of Oregon Cities