



March 5, 2023

Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for HB 3231 – relating to the development of resources toward water reuse implementation in Oregon

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 3231, which will help ease the implementation of water reuse in Oregon. This testimony letter is presented on behalf of the Pacific Northwest Section of the WaterReuse Association, which represents municipal water utilities, businesses, and institutions that undertake or support water reuse. Our mission is dedicated to advancing laws, policy, funding and public awareness of recycled water benefits. The PNW WaterReuse Section serves Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The PNW Section conducted listening sessions with technical water professionals, utility managers, businesses, and partners including OR ACWA and DEQ -- to clarify the roadblocks constraining more affordable and timelier implementation of water reuse solutions. This bill is responsive and a strong start to addressing the needs we heard in the listening sessions as well as recognized challenges experienced by utility leaders over the last couple of decades. The measures outlined will better commit resources and evolve regulatory frameworks to provide more modern and sustainable water management solutions in Oregon.

This is essential especially as we continue to realize the severe and rapidly progressing impacts of climate change. With another water portfolio option -- recycled water -- we are better equipped to protect our freshwater resources, habitat, environment, businesses and communities.

Water reuse allows us to be more adaptable and innovative in managing drinking water resources strained by climate change. Water reuse allows us to better manage costs (for instance through more effective green solutions versus building expensive physical infrastructure only).

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The fundamental principle of water reuse is using the right water for the right purpose. HB 3231 makes a significant step in the right direction toward our ability to use the right Oregon water resources for the right purpose at the right time.

Thank you to Chair Helm and Representative Owens for your sponsorship of this bill and to the committee for considering this important action.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Holly Tichenor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

Holly Tichenor  
President of PNW SECTION of WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION

WaterReuse Association  
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