



Amazon Web Services | 1320 SW Broadway Suite 400 | Portland, Oregon

May 3, 2023

Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Groundwater Storage Funding

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for groundwater storage funding for the 2023-2025 biennium budget. Amazon Web Services (AWS) enthusiastically supports regional water sustainability and water management policies and funding programs – specifically **section 6-6 and 6-7** in the package proposed by Representatives Helm and Owens for **HB 3124**, the Drought Relief and Water Security Package. We understand that section 6-6 and 6-7 received support during a public hearing and **SB 455**, related to aquifer recharge, received support and moved to Ways and Means for further consideration.

AWS has been a part of the Morrow and Umatilla County communities with continuous construction and operation of our data center clusters since 2011. AWS has invested \$15.6 billion which is estimated to have contributed an economic impact (GDP) of \$1.15 billion and, in 2021 alone, created or retained over 4,700 jobs in the region. AWS and our employees are engrained in the community. In 2022, AWS employees contributed 2,325 hours of their time outside of work to volunteer in the community, supporting local shelters and foodbanks, creating STEM kits for local students, participating in Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups, and building homeless Conestoga huts for the Umatilla Homeless Project. Outside of volunteering and community sponsorships, we also believe in the power of local partnerships to drive positive change, especially around water.

In 2022, AWS announced it will be water positive by 2030. That means that we are committed to making more water available to communities where we operate. An [example](#) of this partnership is in Umatilla County where we worked with local stakeholders to develop a plan to sustainably recycle the water used to cool AWS data centers. The plan led to local municipalities and AWS investing in miles of new pipeline to deliver the clean water to existing canals and other reuse facilities, allowing 96% of all spent clean noncontact cooling water from AWS data centers to be available for reuse in nearby communities. It also allowed for a new source of clean water for local farmers to use for irrigation. This example is not the end of our investment in the region. Currently, we are working with local city and county stakeholders, including Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA), to invest in pipeline projects in Umatilla County that will help supply water for new aquifer recharge and aquifer storage in the region. We're excited to see the projects come to fruition and are working with local partners to ensure the recharge basin is tested properly before permanent ongoing use.

We look forward to continuing to support this work in Eastern Oregon and urge your support for additional groundwater storage funding for the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney N. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Courtney Lee  
Sr. Manager, AWS State and Local Public Policy