



Honorable Chairs Elizabeth Steiner and Tawna Sanchez  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce is offering its enthusiastic support of the request from the Tualatin Valley Water District, City of Hillsboro, and City of Beaverton for state funds to mitigate the inflationary impacts on the \$1.6 billion Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS) project. The WWSS is a joint \$1.6 billion infrastructure project that will modernize and protect water supply for a variety of water users in Washington County.

#### **Ensuring Water for Semiconductor Manufacturing**

The Willamette Water Supply project will increase the availability and access of water that semiconductor manufacturing plants require. In addition to the support provided by Senate Bill 4, ensuring the timely completion of the Willamette Water System will provide an added incentive that competing areas cannot offer.

#### **Strengthening Regional Water Supply**

The Willamette Water Supply System will diversify, expand, and strengthen the Portland metropolitan area water supply. It will draw water from the Willamette River at Wilsonville, treat the water at a state-of-the-art treatment facility in Sherwood and provide water lines and storage to the most urbanized parts of Washington County. The system is being built for resilience, which can help ensure continued access to water after a major earthquake.

#### **Partnering with Ratepayers**

The 375,000 residential, commercial, and industrial water users that will be served by the new system have carried the full load of construction costs. Inflation has raised the cost of the project by more than \$315 million. We support consideration of a state contribution to mitigate the impact for businesses and residents across the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deanna Palm'.

Deanna Palm  
President/CEO