



CITY OF  
**MILTON-FREEWATER**

P.O Box 6 • 722 South Main • Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

Phone (541) 938-5531 • Fax (541) 938-8224 • mfcity.com

Good afternoon Chair Manning Jr., Vice Chair Thatcher and Honorable Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 761

My name is Chad Morris, and am in consultation with Mike Odman on this letter of support. We are the City Manager and Mayor (respectively) of Milton Freewater OR.

The City of Milton Freewater has long been an agricultural epicenter of Northeast Oregon and the Walla Walla Valley. From dryland crops to irrigated row and permanent crops, our valley supports a wide range of grains, fruits and produce that is both consumed locally as well as shipped out domestically and overseas trade. Our city is home to people and businesses that support agriculture as well as many other types of entities that make a small town thrive

We are very fortunate to live in the Walla Walla River Basin and for the river water that provides many benefits. We do not take for granted this finite resource and have always been a steward of it's careful use.

Decades of planning for the continued care of this shared resource has generated by state collaboration between Oregon and Washington. The Walla Walla 2050 Strategy has allowed both states to work together to address challenges that are evident in areas such as municipal, environmental, fishery, Tribal and farming activities. The city devotes personnel to this planning process so we ensure that we are doing our part for a wholistic problem solving approach that the 2050 Strategy provides.

In the 2050 Strategy planning process there are a multitude of objectives that have been identified and catalogued as tiered priorities. There are several in which the City is a direct partner. We are requesting funding through Senate Bill 761 to achieve these implementation milestones. The City of Milton Freewater holds steadfast in our resolve to being a good working partner in the planning process to meet the objectives of the 2050 Strategy and reach our desired future conditions.

We want to extend our very deep appreciation to the sponsors, co-sponsors and proponents of OR SB 761.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely;

Chad D. Morris  
City Manager  
Milton-Freewater, Oregon