



CITY OF BEND

February 7, 2025

LOCATION

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CITY MANAGER

Eric King

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: Support for HB 2169

Chairs Helm & Owens and members of the Committee:

The City of Bend strongly supports House Bill 2169, which seeks to develop a statewide policy on water reuse and establish a water reuse team. As a growing high desert community, Bend recognizes the critical importance of sustainable water management practices to ensure our long-term water security. House Bill 2169 is a step towards creating a more flexible set of water management tools for cities across Oregon, and specifically those navigating an uncertain water future.

We are eager to be an active participant in the future water reuse team and contribute our local expertise to the statewide policy development process. Bend has already demonstrated a great deal of leadership when it comes to innovative and collaborative water reuse strategies:

- In 2006 the City of Bend, through an innovative public/private partnership with a nearby golf resort community, began offsetting the use of groundwater for irrigation. In 2024 this partnership helped offset the use of 183MG of groundwater in the Deschutes Basin.
- In 2018 the City of Bend began producing Class A treated effluent – the highest possible quality of water reuse in Oregon.
- In 2020 the City of Bend initiated meetings with local irrigation districts, regulatory partners, non-profit leaders, and elected officials to explore water reuse & water banking opportunities that improve water supplies for municipal, instream, and agriculture interests.
- In 2024 the City of Bend kicked off a Water Reclamation Facility Update bringing together staff from operations and engineering, as well as

regulatory partners, to further explore water reuse opportunities and to determine future water reuse infrastructure needs.

The City of Bend is committed to continuing our efforts to enhance water stewardship through greater adoption of water reuse. By working together, we can create a comprehensive and effective strategy that will serve as a model for Oregon and beyond. Please support HB 2169.

Sincerely,



Mike Buettner, City of Bend Water Services Director



Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities
You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Mike Buettner at mbuettner@bendoregon.gov or 541-213-1911. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

