



South Suburban Sanitary District
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Board of Directors
Position 1 - Joe Spendolini
Board Chairman
Position 2 - Kenneth DeCrans
Position 3 - Michael Koger

District Manager/Secretary
Brett Blofsky

Representative Ken Helm, Co-Chair
Representative Mark Owens, Co-Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Subject: Support for HB 2169

Dear Co-Chairs Helm, Owens, and Committee Members:

I am the Chairman on the board of directors of the South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) and I offer this testimony in support of HB 2169.

Water reuse in drought damaged communities like ours is essential for restoring, as much as possible, the rich habitat relied on by hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife. Water reuse can help maintain agricultural viability that not only contributes mightily to our economy locally and across the state, but also produces food that sustains the migratory birds and wildlife as well as food that is distributed throughout Oregon and the rest of the country.

Water is a precious natural resource for all Oregonians, maximizing benefits from every drop within our own communities just makes sense. Dedicating the resources needed for the implementation of water reuse across our state is a critical step towards achieving that goal.

Developing water reuse policies also makes fiscal sense. The approximately 23,000 citizens that we serve in SSSD spend approximately \$4.6 million per year for the delivery and use of municipal water from an underground aquifer. They then spend another \$4 million per year on our municipal wastewater treatment system to clean then discharge that water. Due to NPDES permit regulations, we are required to spend approximately \$83 million in upgrades that must be completed by October of next year. Once completed, the approximately 1.5 million gallons per day of water we discharge will be class-A. With \$83 million in required upgrades, and a total of \$8.6 million per year in fees for use, Oregonians that live in a disadvantaged community like ours would prefer the water resource they spend this money on to be utilized to the utmost beneficial use right here in Oregon. At the least we should reuse this quality water here in our community to offset the damages caused by severe droughts, like those we experienced for nearly 5 years in a row.

Developing all-encompassing water resource management policies and practices in our drought ridden communities is the best approach and a solid water reuse program, properly developed and implemented, is an essential ingredient in achieving that goal.

I respectfully encourage you to vote YES on HB 2169.

Sincerely,

Joe Spendolini
Chairman, South Suburban Sanitary District
Board of Directors