

Submitter: Leo Newberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3121

As a Small Water Systems Operator (Inn at Otter Crest) , and Water District Board Member for both Johnson Creek Water District, and Beverly Beach Water District, I am constantly immersed in the challenges associated with operating and maintaining a variety of small water systems along the Oregon Coast. I strongly support initiatives such as HB 3121 as it provides critical resources to systems so that they can continue to provide clean, sustainable, and affordable water to their communities. Personally, in my roles with the Water Systems that I am associated with, I have had to lean heavily on the knowledge and assistance of regional circuit riders as we developed and executed plans for the long-term maintenance and management of our infrastructure. It is important to remember that most small water systems are operated by dedicated volunteers, supported by a bare bones staff when possible. Having access to affordable professional support, technical assistance and legislative understanding is invaluable. We are all facing the same challenges associated with our aging infrastructure. A program like this is the difference between success and failure for many of us.