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February 11, 2025

Co-Chair Ken Helm, Co-Chair Mark Owens, and Members of the  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3121

I am the Superintendent of Rainbow Water District in Springfield. We are an ORS 264 special district serving unincorporated Lane County customers along the edge of Springfield. Rainbow Water District also contracts to provide operations and management support for five small and very small public water systems in the Mohawk and McKenzie River valleys. These include: Marcola Water District, Shangri-La Water District, Blue River Water District, Shenandoah Homeowners and Deerhorn Community Water Association. These small and very small water systems only serve between about 30 and 250 homes each, but allow people to have access to a public water system while making a home in smaller rural communities.

We recognize that many small and very small water systems do not have the required staffing, professional training or experience to keep up with the many demands placed on the part-time and volunteer operators. We help a few of these small systems, but we know the need is much greater and extends across the entire state. Rainbow has witnessed the support provided by the Oregon Association of Water Utilities in good times and bad, providing training or assisting during disaster, and support this bill that would provide additional funding to expand OAWU's reach and ability to support the small water system operators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Porter, PE  
Superintendent