



*Columbia Spirit, Small Town Heart*

February 28, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and  
Workforce Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 3700 – Expanding Drinking Water and Wastewater Reciprocity**

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala & Harbick, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Irrigon, we express strong support for House Bill 3700. Oregon's current reciprocity rules limit the available pool of certified operators, creating hiring challenges for Irrigon and all Oregon communities required certified operators.

Providing clarity for out-of-state applicants on how their experience translates to Oregon's certification requirements will offer much-needed certainty in recruitment while maintaining high standards required to protect public health and the environment.

This bill is an important step toward a thorough conversation on reciprocity for drinking water and wastewater operators. We urge your strong support to help ensure Oregon's cities have access to a qualified workforce of which greatly reduces major time constraints to train-up new operators for testing and certification.

The City of Irrigon is grateful for the opportunity to support House Bill 3700 and we stand ready to work collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority on this issue.

Respectfully,

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