



March 3, 2025

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

RE: Support for HB 3634 – Operator-in-Training and Water Workforce Program

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

The City of Woodburn strongly expresses its support for House Bill 3634, which establishes the Water Workforce Program (Operator-in-Training) to address the critical need for drinking water and wastewater operators.

Reliable water infrastructure is essential for public health and community well-being, yet cities face a growing crisis as a significant portion of the workforce is near retirement. Without trained replacements, Oregon risks disruptions to safe drinking water and wastewater services. HB 3634 is a proactive solution to recruit, train, and retain skilled professionals in this vital field.

We also appreciate the leadership of the Legislature's Water Caucus in championing investments in workforce development, and this committee's willingness to hold a public hearing addressing this critical issue.

We urge your support for HB 3634 and stand ready to collaborate on its implementation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frank J. Lonergan'.

Frank Lonergan
Woodburn Mayor

Office of the Mayor

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