

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

I am writing on behalf of the City of Creswell requesting your support of HB 3700 to address reciprocity for certification requirements for water and wastewater 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 is particularly important with the limited number of certified operators that are available to fill vacancies in the state. The challenges of finding qualified people are even more difficult in rural communities.

We urge your support to help ensure Oregon's cities have access to a qualified workforce

Respectfully Submitted:

Spencer Nebel Interim City Manager City of Creswell snebel@creswell-or.us

Mayor Nicholis Smith and Councilors Cliff Bellows, Public Works Director