

Coast Guard City USA  
Est. 2005

Tree City USA  
Est. 2012

Bee City USA  
Est. 2018



NOAA Pacific Fleet Home Port

Sister City: Mombetsu, Japan

March 3, 2025

To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

**RE: HB 3634 Relating to the Water Workforce; Declaring an Emergency**

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the City of Newport, I am writing to express support for HB 3634. Water utilities ensure households have access to safe and clean water, and support economic development through stable and cost-effective services. As a growing community with an impactful tourism footprint on the Oregon coast, water and wastewater infrastructure are among our highest priorities for the health and safety of our residents and visitors.

Through your support for HB 3634, you are helping to secure the long-term stability and growth of critical water and wastewater infrastructure for communities such as Newport. The grant funding of training and internship programs, and the expansion of recruitment and retention opportunities from both in-state and out-of-state operators is vital to the future of these systems.

In addition, with a growing Spanish-speaking population in Newport that currently comprises approximately 30% of our population, expanded opportunities for bilingual training opportunities to promote the workforce development of qualified wastewater and drinking water operators would greatly help to advance our community's needs.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan Kaplan", is written over a circular stamp.

Jan Kaplan  
Mayor, City of Newport

