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

## RE: Support for House Bill 3700 – Expanding Drinking Water and Wastewater Reciprocity

On behalf of the Mayor, West Linn City Council, and the City's Public Works Department, I am writing to **support House Bill 3700** which addresses Oregon's current reciprocity rules which limit the available pool of certified operators, creating hiring challenges for cities and jurisdictions across Oregon.

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 the high standards required to protect Oregon's public health and environment.

This bill is an important step toward a thorough conversation on reciprocity for drinking water and wastewater operators. We urge your support to help ensure Oregon's cities have access to a qualified workforce.

The City of West Linn appreciates the opportunity to support **House Bill 3700** and we stand ready to work collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority to address this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, John Williams

West Linn City Manager