



CITY OF
West Linn

March 3, 2025

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

RE: Support for House Bill 3643 – Operator in Training and Water Workforce Program

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

On behalf of the Mayor, West Linn City Council, and the City's Public Works Department, I am writing to **support House Bill 3643**, which establishes the Water Workforce Program (Operator-in-Training) to address the critical need for drinking water and wastewater operators.

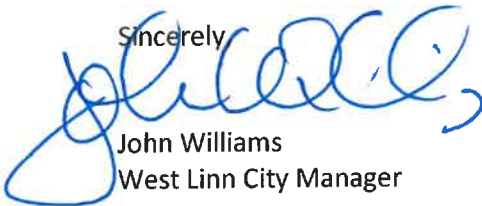
Reliable water infrastructure is essential for public health and community well-being, yet cities across Oregon, including the City of West Linn have faced significant challenges in finding trained and qualified replacements for staff that has or soon will retire. This is a growing crisis, as Oregon risks disruptions to safe drinking water and wastewater services because of this expanding deficit within the workforce. **House Bill 3643** is a proactive solution to recruit, train, and retain skilled professionals in this vital field.

The leadership of the Legislature's Water Caucus is greatly appreciated as they have championed investments in workforce development, and the willingness to hold a public hearing shows their commitment to address this critical issue.

The City of West Linn urges your support of **House Bill 3643** and we stand ready and eager to collaborate on its implementation.

Thank you for your time on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



John Williams
West Linn City Manager