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March 5, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education  
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,

On behalf of the City of Condon, we express our strong 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.

Small, rural cities do not have the financial resources to hire certified employees that have there, as they would require a higher starting wage to pay for their certification and experience. In the past years, Condon has been fortunate to have hired from within the community and due to having an existing certified employee, has the time to go through the 1–2-year process of getting their employees certified. In rural areas, it is difficult to attract employees that have no ties to our communities, and they have the ability to have much higher salaries making it difficult to recruit and retained qualified employees.

We appreciate the leadership of the Legislature’s Water Caucus to look for solutions to issues not only in urban areas, but also in our remote rural areas.

We urge you to support HB 3634 and thank the committee’s willingness to hold public hearings and champion this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Greiner  
City Administrator