



*City of Westfir*

47441 Westoak Road  
P.O. Box 296  
Westfir, Oregon 97492

541-782-3983

[www.ci.westfir.or.us](http://www.ci.westfir.or.us)  
[cityhall@ci.westfir.or.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.westfir.or.us)

March 5, 2025

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

**Re: Support for HB 3634 – Operator-in-Training and Water Workforce Program**  
**Re: Support for HB 3700 – Expanding Drinking Water and Wastewater Reciprocity**

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

On behalf of the City of Westfir, a small city with 160 homes and a population of 260, we would like to raise our hands and show strong support for HB 3634 and HB 3700.

A Water Workforce Program (Operator-in-Training) is of the utmost importance to the maintenance of Public Safety and the quality of life we all deserve. Without trained replacements, Oregon risks disruptions to safe drinking water and wastewater services. HB 3634 is a proactive solution to recruit, train, and retain skilled professionals in this vital field.

Moreover, HB 3700 will increase the pool of available certified operators by providing clarity for out-of-state applicants on how their experience translates to Oregon's certification requirements. The bill will offer much-needed certainty in recruitment while maintaining high standards required to protect public health and the environment.

My sincere appreciation to the House Committee and Oregon State Legislature for considering these challenges.

With best regards,

Richard Watson  
Mayor, City of Westfir