

March 24, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 1062, Testimony in Opposition- PLEASE AMEND

Chair Sollman and Members of the Committee:

The City of McMinnville acting by and through its water and light commission (McMinnville Water and Light) is the governing body for the electric and water utilities of the City of McMinnville. Established in 1889 as the water and electric committees of the City of McMinnville, we are one of the oldest municipal utilities in the State of Oregon. In the 1905 legislative session, SB 241 established the Water and Light Commission of the City of McMinnville. This structure has allowed McMinnville Water and Light to offer some of the most affordable and reliable utility services in the state.

As one of four municipal water and electric utilities<sup>1</sup> structured with separate governing boards through our city charters, our governing boards have authority to set rates to recover our costs to provide service. This makes our boards uniquely qualified to address the challenges that water and electric utilities face daily.

SB 1062 inadvertently removes rate making for water rates from our governing boards and gives that authority to our respective city councils.

We request that SB 1062 be amended to keep the rate making authority with our municipal governing boards. Without this important clarifying amendment, we must oppose SB 1062.

Sincerely,



John C. Dietz  
General Manager

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<sup>1</sup> Eugene Water & Electric Board, Canby Utility, and Springfield Utility Board