



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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March 24, 2025

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court Street NE, S-201
Salem OR 97301

SUBJECT: SB 1189 Relating to Treatment Works within the North Santiam Basin

The City of Salem strongly supports and urges you to vote yes on SB 1189. The City of Salem has been working cooperatively with Marion County and the North Santiam Sewer Authority to bring a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility to the communities of Mill City and Gates. The City believes this enhancement of wastewater treatment capabilities will ensure the continued high-quality water that the City relies on to serve more than 200,000 drinking water customers in Salem and the region.

We urge you to support SB 1189 to provide a commonsense fix to Oregon statute that will allow this project to proceed. Marion County has received \$50 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for this once in a generation project. However, the County risks losing its funding if the monies are not spent by the end of 2026. Current Oregon law does not allow construction of a wastewater treatment system until a permit has been issued by the Department of Environmental Quality. Given the short timeframe, SB 1189 will allow construction to begin while the project receives appropriate permitting scrutiny. While SB 1189 will allow construction to proceed, it **will not** allow the treatment plant to operate until such time a permit is issued.

The City of Salem urges you to support SB 1189. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Hoy
Mayor

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición