



March 31, 2025

Co-Chair Helm & Owens
Members of the House Agriculture, Land Use and Water Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Co-Chairs Helm, Owens and Members of the Committee,

The Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) represents approximately 950 districts that play a crucial role in delivering essential public services all over the state, including water supply, fire protection, sanitary sewer, parks and recreation, irrigation and more. The Oregon Association of Water Utilities is a nonprofit, independent association of water and wastewater utilities. OAWU was formed in 1977 to represent water utilities' interests in the state legislature and provide onsite technical assistance. Our associations would like to express our **opposition to HB 2803**

As proposed this bill would increase the average water transaction at the Oregon Water Resources Department by 135%, to simply maintain existing service. This increase would provide no service enhancements such as reducing existing water transaction backlogs or contested case hearings, or simply improving customer service. Nor does the bill provide any accountability requirements for the department to meet despite this drastic proposed fee increase.

Local governments are experiencing the same challenges that the state is. We also have increasing labor, construction, maintenance, fuel, and equipment costs to name a just a few. The point is that we are all facing similar challenges and subjecting our members, and our citizens, to a 135% increase in fees due the department's own admission that past fee increases have not been adequate seems punitive.

While we rely on the work of the department, we simply cannot in good conscience support a bill that increases fees by this amount without any assured service enhancement, improvements, or accountability.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Landauer', written over a white background.

Mark Landauer
Lobbyist

Special Districts Association of Oregon
Oregon Association of Water Utilities