

Good afternoon.

I want to welcome the Joint Ways and Means Committee co-chairs Sen. Katie Lieber and Rep. Tawana Sanchez and all the committee members to Klamath Falls. I also would like to thank Sen. Diane Linthicum, Rep. Werner Reschke and Rep. Emily McIntire for helping arrange your visit here.

My name is Jonathan Teichert

I am the Klamath Falls City manager and have been so for the last three years

I wish to speak to **House Bill 3634** which addresses workforce challenges in the water sector by providing **\$3.5 million** through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Workforce Development Boards.

The funds are intended for training drinking water and wastewater operators, which is crucial for cities facing a shortage of qualified personnel in these roles.

The bill is now before Ways and Means with a recommendation for passage.

This bill is important for public health and safety and its potential to leverage federal funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

I encourage you to support it for these reasons:

- The water treatment staff for the City of Klamath Falls are highly trained for a demanding job, that requires multiple certificates and degrees over the course of several years. These funds would help retain our workers by keeping them current on their certifications. It would also help us recruit new employees.
- The city has a strong working relationship with Klamath Community College that has been fostered over many years.
- KCC has a proven track record when it comes to workforce development, Career and Technical Education and Apprenticeship programs. This type of training would fit well in KCC's wheelhouse.
- East Cascades Works, a regional investment board, has a long history in administering these funds through KCC for workforce training.

I hope you approve passage of this bill.

Thank you for your time.