



February 14, 2025

TO: Oregon Legislature's Bipartisan, Bicameral Water Caucus
Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the Caucus

RE: Letter of Support for South Suburban Sanitary District's Project Request

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Caucus Members,

On behalf of the Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), please accept this letter of support for the request submitted by the South Suburban Sanitary District's (SSSD) required upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant that serves approximately 23,000 citizens in our officially designated disadvantaged community.

The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant are mandated by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and are necessary to comply with new permit requirements that must be completed by October of 2026.

Cost estimates for these upgrades are approximately \$83 million. The District has saved millions of dollars in reserve funds that have been responsibly placed with Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), and has \$10 million in reserves for matching funds. This, combined with other funds on hand, the District is seeking \$70.1 million to cover the balance of these mandated upgrades.

In addition to compliance with ODEQ's new permit requirements, these upgrades will provide significant public benefits, in addition to assisting fish and wildlife within the ecosystem as the water discharged will be much higher in quality when discharged into Lake Ewauna, the headwaters of the Klamath River.

We stand with SSSD in their request, along with many other entities, and respectfully ask this Caucus to join us in that support by approving the financial request to help fund these mandated upgrades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Cox", is positioned above the printed name.

Randy Cox
CEO, KCEDA