



Eugene Water & Electric Board

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February 13, 2026

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Nosse, and Members of the Committee:

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) respectfully requests consideration of EWEB's proposed Willamette Water Treatment Plant funding request. This plant will provide a critical second source of drinking water for 200,000 residents of Lane County. From families at home to businesses downtown, every part of our community depends on knowing that water will always be safe and available.

EWEB's ability to provide water is currently compromised by reliance on a single water source – the McKenzie River. Our \$1,000,000 request would cover updating the design of ozonation capability at a new Willamette Treatment plant, reassessing assumptions used in a prior preliminary design. Ozonation to purify water is necessary because of new threats to our drinking water system that make it more apparent than ever that this plant must be able to handle the impacts from wildfires, ice storms, and toxin release from harmful algal blooms (HABS), etc. Rescoping the Willamette project is essential to build confidence that we'll be able to capably mitigate these threats.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important water supply diversification and resiliency project.

Sincerely,

Jason Heuser
Public Policy and Government Affairs Director
Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)