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April 15, 2009

To: Senator Vicki Walker, Co-Chair
Representative Bob Jenson, Co-Chair
Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

From: Daniel Eisenbeis, Intergovernmental Relations Associate

RE: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Budget

The League of Oregon Cities is an association of all 242 cities in the state. As you consider the 2009-2011 budget for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the League would like to offer support for maintaining the capacity of DEQ to work cooperatively with cities to ensure protection of environmental quality.

Oregon's largest municipal wastewater permit holders have directly supported the implementation of SB 737 by paying a surcharge to fund two limited duration positions at DEQ, with the understanding that the state will also do its share to support the program with general fund dollars. We urge the subcommittee to honor the implicit commitment of SB 737 and adequately fund DEQ to implement the persistent pollutant reduction program.

Also, the League would like to offer support for POP #124, which would authorize DEQ to fund two additional staff within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program using revenue from the current administrative fee associated with the SRF. Many Oregon cities have benefited from the SRF to fund investments in critical wastewater treatment, collection, and disposal systems. POP #124 will provide DEQ with additional capacity to assist applicants and ensure that the SRF program remains a success.

Thank you for your consideration.

"Getting it done for Oregon's cities!"