



Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

April 13, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Carter, Co-Chair Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE., S-201
Salem, OR, 97301

The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair Ways and means Committee
900 Court St. NE., S-201
Salem, OR, 97301

RE: Letter of support for the DEQ policy package 124; the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund, operated by the Oregon DEQ is a critically important funding mechanism that benefits ALL Oregonians. The fund provides low cost financing for both point source and non-point source water quality projects operated by Oregon municipalities including cities, counties, special districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This fund benefits both our environment and our economy. It is the only fund that can address pollution from both point sources and non-point sources. Also, the CWSRF provides the lowest cost financing option (of all the state operated funds) for projects both large and small. This low-cost financing is critically important in keeping local dollars circulating in the local economy, something that particularly benefits Oregon's hard hit rural economies.

Speaking from nearly ten years of experience with the CWSRF, I've witnessed many projects that often seemed out of reach of small communities and projects that were challenging for even our largest communities. But time and time again, the CWSRF turns out to be the lender that makes it work economically, politically and environmentally. It is very effective at financing high priority water quality projects at the lowest possible cost. In fact it is our best program and deserves our full support as a critical component of a no regrets environmental and economic enhancement strategy.

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts is the state association for Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts which help bring over \$60,000,000 annually into Oregon rural communities for non-point source water quality and water quantity projects.

Sincerely,

Gary Whitney, Executive Director, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

CC: The Honorable Vicki Walker, Co-Chair, Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE., S-309, Salem, OR, 97301

The Honorable Bob Jenson, Co-Chair, Ways and Means, Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE., H-481, Salem, OR, 97301

Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178, Salem OR 97301

Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 811 SW 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97204-1390

