



101 South A Street, PO Box 155, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-746-1651 | [www.springfield-chamber.org](http://www.springfield-chamber.org)

May 12, 2026

RE: Support for EWEB Development Code and Glenwood Refinement Plan Land Use Change Request

Members of the Joint Elected Officials Meeting:

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to the Springfield Development Code and Glenwood Refinement Plan related to the Eugene Water & Electric Board's proposed Willamette Water Treatment Plant project.

Specifically, the Chamber supports the requested land use and refinement plan amendments that would allow "high impact public utility facilities" as a permitted use within the applicable Glenwood Employment Mixed Use District and provide the necessary policy framework for future consideration of projects of this nature.

As our region continues to grow and confront increasing pressures related to resiliency, infrastructure capacity, natural disasters, and long-term sustainability, it is important that local land use frameworks remain adaptable enough to accommodate critical public infrastructure when appropriate safeguards and review processes are in place. We believe these amendments represent a reasonable and forward-looking land use action that allows the community to continue evaluating an important regional infrastructure proposal through future design, permitting, environmental review, and public engagement processes.

The Chamber also recognizes the broader regional importance of water resiliency and redundancy. Reliable infrastructure is foundational to economic stability, public safety, workforce continuity, and long-term community confidence. Projects that strengthen regional resiliency warrant thoughtful consideration as communities across Oregon continue planning for seismic events, wildfire impacts, drought conditions, and other potential disruptions.

At this stage, our support is specific to the requested code and refinement plan amendments before you. The Chamber is continuing to learn more about the broader project itself, including long-term project costs, funding strategies, implementation timelines, and operational impacts. As those details continue to develop, we look forward to remaining engaged in the conversation.

We appreciate the collaborative work between EWEB, City of Springfield staff, Lane County staff, and community stakeholders to bring forward a clear and transparent public process regarding these proposed amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Mikkelsen".

Vonnie Mikkelsen, IOM  
President and CEO