



Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District

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Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District Testimony to Ways and Means Committee, District 1 Virtual Meeting. April 14th, 2021

Good evening Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, Rayfield and members of the Committee:

My name is Phil Chick; I serve as manager for the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District, an Oregon Special District that provides water service to the community of Arch Cape in Clatsop County.

I'd like to share with you a magnificent project on the Oregon coast that the Arch Cape Water district has been involved in pursuing for the past 4 years. It's called the Arch Cape Forest Project.

This creative approach to drinking water protection seeks to acquire 1457 acres of forestland in Clatsop County with the goal of establishing a community forest and protected watershed in the community of Arch Cape. This project is about permanently protecting water Quality and Quantity for future generations, and we believe ties directly in with Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision.

In 2017 the Arch Cape Water District partnered with North Coast Land Conservancy and Sustainable Northwest to chart a path toward Water District ownership of the property. NCLC is also purchasing the surrounding 3500 acres in what will be known as the Rainforest Reserve. We refer to this strategic partnership between the water district and our local land trust as "2 Projects, One Vision"

We've made tremendous progress in the past few years, and I'm proud to report that to date we have been awarded \$3.5 million in grant funds through the USDA's nationally competitive Forest Legacy Program. As a result, Oregon Department of Forestry is now a major guiding partner in the acquisition and future management of the property. The Clatsop County Commissioners' have generously contributed \$250K as matching funds, and the project has gained financial assistance from Oregon DEQ, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

This is a project as much about self-sufficiency as it is environmental sustainability, and is a prime example of how local governments can strive to operate in a self-sustaining way, while providing essential services for the community. At its core, community forestry is about giving local residents an equitable voice in management decisions for their forest and their water source.

We're 70% of the way to our target funding goal. Although not a construction project per se, this is a shovel ready project that can provide multi-generational benefits to Oregonians, and American Rescue Plan Act funding can take this over the finish line. We believe that this project offers the best that forestry, clean water, conservation, and recreation can offer when they are all working together – and want to see these continue to thrive in Clatsop County and throughout Oregon.

Thank you for the Committee's full consideration in designating funds in the state budget in the 2021-23 biennium for this, and other drinking water quality projects.

Phil Chick

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Phil Chick".

District Manager, Arch Cape Water District