

April 10, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Support for HB 2813

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Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez:

The undersigned organizations respectfully ask that you provide \$5 million in funding for HB 2813 in the 2023-2025 budget. HB 2813 creates a grant program for water suppliers to protect, restore, and acquire drinking water source areas, or the land area that contributes to drinking water supply. This legislation will provide communities and water suppliers across the state access to plentiful drinking water and increase resilience to climate change by creating a state funding mechanism to leverage significant public and private capital to ensure safe and secure drinking water for Oregonians through voluntary measures.

As communities across our state face increasing drought, extreme weather events, and demand pressures, support for acquisition and protection of the lands around drinking water sources is vital. This is recognized as a proven and effective approach to increase community resilience, reducing risks associated with an inadequate water supply and limiting the need for expensive infrastructure investments. HB 2813 has received bipartisan support and endorsements from cities, water suppliers, land managers, and conservation groups across Oregon.

HB 2813 was carefully crafted in partnership with communities and land management experts to strategically meet water availability and quality needs for communities across Oregon. Many communities are already engaged in this work but lack adequate funding to complete source water protection projects. HB 2813 will fill this key capacity gap by providing state funding for water providers to protect their drinking water sources. The creation of this program and \$5 million in funding will also provide direct match and leverage for historic federal funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act available for watershed acquisition and forest management.

Clean and reliable drinking water is a right for all Oregonians, and HB 2813 provides a common-sense and effective mechanism to meet these needs and enhance our state's public health infrastructure. We thank you for your consideration and urge you to provide \$5 million in funding for HB 2813.

Sincerely,

**Cape Meares Community Association**

**City of Reedsport**

**City of Newport**

**City of Sandy**

**Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts**

**Ducks Unlimited**

**Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln  
County**

**Eugene Water & Electric Board**

**League of Women Voters Oregon**

**Neahkhanie Water District**

**Neskowin Water District**

**North Coast Land Conservancy**

**Oregon Association of Conservation  
Districts**

**Oregon Coast Forest Association**

**Oregon Environmental Council**

**Oregon Operator Solutions LLC**

**Pacific Forest Trust**

**Port Orford Watershed Council**

**Rhododendron Water Association**

**Springboard Forestry LLC**

**Sustainable Northwest**

**The Conservation Fund**

**The Nature Conservancy**

**The Wetland Conservancy**

**Wild Rivers Land Trust**

**Wild Salmon Center**