

April 16, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Port Orford Watershed Council, Linda Tarr Chairperson

RE: Support for Bipartisan Drought Relief and Water Security Package.

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Bipartisan Drought Relief and Water Security Package.

In Port Orford, we have been working as volunteers for more than three years to bring about the acquisition by the City of Port Orford of 160 acres of forested land located very near our drinking water intake.

This project was inspired by the established guidance that keeping intact healthy forest on the steep slopes that comprise our watershed is the most economical way to insure quality of source water, as well as resilience during more extreme weather conditions, whether that be drought or storms.

After hundreds of hours of volunteer effort, we hope to complete the transaction within the next few months using funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

I believe the provisions of this bill will be helpful in bringing about similar projects in other communities.

I believe that the technical support provided will help the City of Port Orford continue in the ongoing efforts to meet the challenges of providing drinking water to our community and visitors.

I am grateful for the work represented by many other provisions in these bills, which, though they may not directly benefit my community, are important steps in responding to the challenges that Oregonians will encounter in the future.

On behalf of the Port Orford Watershed Council I strongly urge you to approve these important provisions.

Sincerely,
Linda Tarr
Port Orford Watershed Council