



January 31st, 2023

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

From: Oregon Coast Community Forest Association

**RE: Support for HB 2813 - Ensuring Safe and Secure Drinking Water**

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

My name is Benjamin Williams, and I am a board member for the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association. We work to promote sustainable forestry practices to ensure the health of the forests and the community. Managing forests properly can ensure the maximum amount of healthy drinking water for the community, healthy streams for wildlife, and a healthy, diverse ecosystem where life and resources can thrive.

I am writing today in support of HB 2813, a bipartisan bill that would help ensure secure and safe drinking water for communities in Oregon. HB 2813 would help communities and water suppliers secure plentiful drinking water, increase resilience to climate change, and provide a state funding source to protect water resources and public health.

Water is essential for life. Without proper management of the lands feeding the watershed, this resource will continue to diminish until lost. The quality of the water matters also. You do not have to look far to see how immediate and dire this situation is becoming, and rapidly. This bill is a great opportunity. Our organization can help lend its expertise on forestry management to make sure the watershed lands keep the reservoirs full of as much good, clean drinking water as nature will allow.

HB 2813 will provide meaningful support for many communities facing water insecurity and will help leverage unprecedented federal funding coming down to our state. We encourage Chair Helm and the committee members to support this bill and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Benjamin Williams  
Board Member - OCCFA