

Submitter: Benjamin Hayes

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2813

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

From: Ben Hayes – Springboard Forestry LLC

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

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

My name is Ben Hayes and I am the owner of Springboard Forestry LLC and a co-owner of Hyla Woods, a family forestland business. Springboard Forestry focuses on supporting and managing forested municipal watersheds and other conservation properties. For the past decade we have worked with a wide range of drinking water projects throughout the State of Oregon.

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.

In our work with drinking water providers, we consistently see a lack of funding as a primary barrier to the acquisition and stewardship of drinking water source areas. In particular, many drinking water source areas remain under private ownership with water providers unable to steer management decisions.

While purchasing forestland to protect source water can be expensive, it is one of the best ways to guarantee a long term secure source of drinking water. Our citizens need reliable quantities of high quality drinking water. There is no better way that I can imagine of doing this than securing community and water supplier ownership of drinking water source areas.

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 Hayes
Manager – Springboard Forestry LLC
Co-Owner – Hyla Woods