



**COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS**

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February 4th, 2025

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

From: The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

**RE: Support for H.B. 2984**

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I would like to share our support for H.B. 2984, which would provide \$1.5 million to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for activities that relate to water.

COLT is a membership organization representing 31 land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and conservation organizations working across Oregon to protect our habitat and natural spaces – for all people, forever. Collectively, our members have protected more than 318,000 acres of land across our state.

H.B. 2984 would build on past investments the legislature has made to address the impacts of drought on Oregon communities, and the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund has identified drought resilience on natural and working lands as a top priority for the upcoming biennium.

COLT's statewide community of land trusts are already actively working with communities and water suppliers across Oregon to ensure secure and safe drinking water using voluntary, market-based tools. Their work to protect Oregon's water sources helps communities build resilience to climate stressors like fire, drought, and floods. Our members rely on funding sources like the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB)



**24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust  
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust  
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust  
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust  
Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon  
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Willowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust  
**8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water  
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association  
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

recently established Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program to mitigate the impacts that drought and stressed water supplies have on communities.

The North Coast Land Conservancy, for example, worked with the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District and Sustainable Northwest to acquire 1,500 acres and establish the Arch Cape Community Forest. This land is now permanently protected and managed as a community forest that provides multiple benefits including affordable, clean and safe drinking water, stabilized water rates, and conservation opportunities.

Our coalition supports the additional funding provided in H.B. 2984 to improve drought resilience on natural and working lands. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joe Buttafuoco  
Executive Director  
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

