



February 10, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
**RE: Support for HB 3341 - Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program**

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

I am writing today in support of your bill, H.B. 3341, to provide an additional \$5 million in funding for the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program (2025-2027). This funding will be critical for communities on the central Oregon coast. The OWEB Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program was established with broad bipartisan support in 2023 and plays a vital role in protecting the drinking water supply of small and rural communities across Oregon. There is great demand for this funding in Oregon. A recent survey by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board identified more than \$27 million in project funding needs over the next 5 years for communities across the state. Thank you for recognizing this need.

McKenzie River Trust is a regional land trust serving the Central Oregon Coast since 2004. Working with communities and conservation partners, we have protected over 2,000 acres in our coastal service area. One of our top priorities is supporting coastal communities in their efforts to protect their drinking water sources. Water scarcity has increasingly become an issue for communities on Oregon's coast due to growing populations, drought, heavy water usage during the dry summer months, and a lack of adequate storage in the wet winter months. As a member of the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP), we are active in source watershed protection as one of the imperatives of the Water Action Plan. Several communities in our coastal service area have been working on Drinking Water Protection Plans, and are nearing the point when acquiring key parcels in their watersheds will be the next step.

HB 3341 will help ensure secure and safe drinking water for communities in Oregon by providing additional funding for water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water through land acquisition and conservation. H.B. 3341 is also a key component of the 2025 Water Package and will provide meaningful support for many communities facing water insecurity. H.B. 3341 will help communities and water suppliers secure plentiful drinking water, increase resilience to climate change, and provide additional funding to protect water resources and public health.

For many small water providers on the coast, the availability of this funding could make or break their ability to protect their source water and meet growing demands for water.

We greatly appreciate the Co-chairs' leadership in this and other water related legislation. We encourage full support from the committee, and look forward to seeing the bill move through the process.

Best wishes,

Joe Moll, Executive Director

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