
TROLLERS COVE WATER ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Ken Helm
Oregon Water Caucus co-chair

DATE February 10, 2025

Dear Ken Helm

Trollers Cove Water Association is a small non-profit water association. Our volunteers manage and run a system that serves 15 households. In April of 2019 Oregon Health Authority (OHA) cited our little 50 yr old system for no filtration, incomplete record keeping and improper Chlorination treatment. Skip ahead 5 years! Utilizing the Small Water District Revolving Fund Program we obtained funds to build a new OHA compliant system. Our little water plant is in its infant stage! Since it's start up in December it has produced over 300k gallons of water! We've had a few hiccups, thank you all for your patience in these times! We have transitioned from a simple gravity feed system without filtration to a modern multi pump electrified membrane filtration system located on our land we bought. We've added a generator to hook up should we experience power outages that we sometimes(!) get living here. Our OAWU representative was instrumental in assisting us to navigate the funding process, the construction process and the operational process. Jason Brooks was always there by phone or in person to answer questions and assist with mandated lead survey. We are all volunteers for a system that service 15 connections. Just this week we attended a free class for Small Water Operator training Course (SWOTC) sponsored by OAWU. The course was extremely helpful in providing information on filtration, record keeping and proper chlorination times; all the areas we were in non compliance.

We are contacting you now to respectfully request your continued support for rural water, the Oregon Association of Water Utilities. Continued funding would allow OAWU to maintain its on-site technical assistance and training classes. The state dollars that are appropriated to OAWU provide vital, hands-on technical assistance to small and rural water systems. Without these programs, small communities would lose a valuable resource, which assists them in maintaining safe drinking water and protecting the environment. This valuable service saves hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for small rural systems since the technical staff is available free of charge to these communities. Increased regulations and costs are already hitting the small systems very hard. OAWU's technical assistance offered throughout the state is an essential resource to these communities struggling to provide safe drinking water and protect the environment they serve.

Thank you for your assistance to rural and small communities in the effort to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and improving the environment in our water supplies.

Sincerely,
Trollers Cove Water Association Board
