



2-11-2025

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

*From: North Coast Land Conservancy*

***RE: Support for HB 3341 - \$5 million in funding for the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program***

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

*I am Katie Voelke, the Executive Director of North Coast Land Conservancy. We are a local land trust leading conservation on the Oregon Coast across Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln Counties. We have protected more than 10,000 acres for forests, streams, estuaries, and grasslands, safeguarding our land, water and air resources for generations to come. We have directly supported the cities of Seaside, Cannon Beach, Arch Cape, Rockaway, and Neskowin, in the goals and needs to permanently protect the drinking water source watersheds. These small coastal communities are incredibly burdened by water quality and quantity situations that have at times lead to shutting off of water to residents and visitors. Local community ownership and management with a goal of drinking water protection is critical for the future livability of these communities.*

*I am writing today in support of H.B. 3341, which would provide an additional \$5 million in funding for the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program for the upcoming biennium (2025-2027) to ensure the continuation of this valuable program. 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.*

*This bipartisan bill would 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.*



*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.*

*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 would 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.*

*Passing of this bill and protection of these watersheds on the coast helps not only coastal residents but tens of thousands of Oregonians who visit the coast regularly. Not only do the people depend on these watersheds for the gift of healthy water, but the salmon, elk, and all fish and wildlife depend on this as well.*

*Thank you,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Voelke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Katie Voelke*

*Executive Director*

*On Behalf of our board of directors and many thousands of supporters*