



February 11, 2025

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

**RE: Support for HB 3341 – \$5 Million for the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3341, which allocates an additional \$5 million to the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program for the 2025–2027 biennium. This crucial funding will ensure the continuation of a program that safeguards drinking water for small and rural communities across Oregon.

Established with broad bipartisan support in 2023, the OWEB Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program helps water suppliers protect, restore, and enhance drinking water sources through land acquisition and conservation. HB 3341 will further strengthen these efforts, securing safe and reliable drinking water for Oregon communities.

North Coast Land Conservancy works from the Columbia River to Siletz Bay along the north Oregon coast. For decades, we have collaborated with communities to protect their drinking water and empower local decision-making. Now more than ever, it is essential to provide communities with the tools they need to ensure both the quality and quantity of their water supply. The increasing number of visitors to our coast, combined with drier summer conditions, is putting additional strain on rural water systems. This funding is critical to building the resilience of small communities and ensuring they thrive into the future.

The strong demand for this funding is evident. In the program's first funding cycle, requests far exceeded available resources. A recent Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board survey identified over \$27 million in project funding needs across the state over the next five years.

HB 3341 is a key component of the 2025 Water Package and will provide meaningful support for communities facing water insecurity. By helping water suppliers secure drinking water, increase climate resilience, and protect public health, this bill is an investment in Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wickersham', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Wickersham  
Associate Director  
North Coast Land Conservancy  
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