

Submitter: Corinne Clifton
On Behalf Of: Weiss Estates Water System
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3121

Weiss Estates is a very small water system in rural Coos County. We serve a population of about 30 full-time residents with 22 hook ups to our community water system. We bear the same burden of providing clean, safe drinking water to less than three dozen residents as our neighbor to the north, Coos Bay-North Bend, but without the same budget. Everything we do is funded by the residents. Weiss Estates is a 25 lot planned unit development located in southern Coos County. The major infrastructure was installed in 1980 and needs to be replaced. We are beginning a major project to upgrade our water treatment plant tomorrow and the total cost of \$140,000 is being born by the 25 lots. That more than \$5000 per lot is a huge burden to a mostly senior population relying on fixed incomes. We could use help with all of the issues this bill addresses. There have been several times that we could have used a circuit rider but either one was not available or the funding wasn't there to provide for one. This small water plant is operated by seven volunteers who have all learned what we know from "on the job" training. None of us is formally trained. Board members often don't understand the challenges we face much less residents. The board members are involved in all aspects of planning and execution but several understand only the rudimentary facts. Some type of training would be invaluable.