



989 Broadway
Seaside, OR 97138

(503) 738-5511
cityofseaside.us

February 11, 2025

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

From: City of Seaside, Seaside, Oregon

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 the Mayor of Seaside, Oregon, a coastal community that relies on clean and sustainable water sources to support residents, businesses, and visitors. Seaside is committed to responsible land and watershed management to ensure long-term water security.

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. Seaside currently has a watershed project application under review through the OWEB grant program. If awarded, this grant will allow us to purchase an additional 220 acres of watershed land, expanding our existing protected acreage. This acquisition is a crucial step in securing our drinking water supply, reducing treatment costs, and ensuring long-term water quality for our community.


However, additional watershed lands could also be available for conservation through support from an OWEB Drinking Water Source Protection Grant. H.B. 3341 would provide the necessary funding for this program, allowing communities like Seaside to take proactive steps to safeguard their drinking water sources. Investing in watershed protection strengthens climate resilience, preserves natural filtration systems, and helps ensure sustainable water access for future generations.

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.

Thank you,

Name & Signature

STEVE WRIGHT
Sincerely,


Mayor