

Testimony by Sara Grigsby PO Box 146 Corbett, OR 97019, in support of Timber Tax Fairness

I am here both as an interested and concerned Corbett resident as well as a Board Member of the Corbett Water District.

Regarding the Water District perspective, let me quickly say that I am NOT here formally representing Water District although they share my same concerns about providing safe and adequate drinking water for our community.

I am here today to speak to 1) the availability of safe and adequate drinking water and 2) the rising costs associated with water in our community because of logging impacts on our system.

Corbett is an unincorporated community with a population of about 3800. Our Water District has 1100 accounts. Our water comes from Gordon Creek watershed which runs 9 miles east to west and 4 miles north to south and drains through about 26 miles of streams on the southwest side of Larch Mountain. The land within the watershed is owned and/or operated by BLM, Forest Service and Private Timber Companies, including Frank Lumber and Weyerhaeuser.

More recently we have experience dangerously short supplies of water in the dry months. In the high usage summertime, we use 1 million gallons/day. That gives us a total at best of a 2 day supply. What's more, we have no interties or cross connections to other municipalities' water supply. In that regard, we are alone, isolated and vulnerable.

Due to lack forest practice rules, Frank Lumber clearcut along Gordon Creek. The law allowed them to cut everything but a narrow 20ft buffer of trees along the creek. This was so narrow that much of the buffer blew down and in doing so, destroyed our water works on the South Fork of Gordon Creek.

In addition to losing water volume/flow, there is now greater siltation and turbidity overall rendering our water supply less safe for drinking. We currently only have access to the North Fork of Gordon Creek. We have lost $\frac{1}{3}$ of our water supply.

As of 2019, we have committed to drilling a Well as an alternate water source and are in the midst of drilling a test well at a cost of \$575,000 to verify that there is in fact water to be accessed there. If successful, the price tag for the Well is estimated to be \$2.2 million. We have spent just over \$550,000 since 2017 on preliminary research on a well including current costs for the test well. And regarding the Test Well, we are currently at or below our targeted depth for hitting water with disappointing and uncertain results.

We are also planning to engineer and repair the South Fork intake and working with agencies including DEQ and the East MC Soil and Water Conservation District on conservation measures.

As you have heard and will hear today, reinstating Timber Tax Fairness would be of great benefit in many regards throughout the District. As it pertains to the Corbett Water District's need to secure safe and adequate drinking water for its citizens, the bill would help fund DEQ oversight to better regulate logging action in watersheds. As it pertains to the rural community of Corbett without a local governmental infrastructure or budget to protect homes and land from wildfires, we are in need of resources that would be made available through the restoration of fair taxation. We would use the money to restore our water system, wildfire mitigation and schools.

Thank you for your time.