



January 30, 2023

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

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 2813 – Access to Safe Drinking Water

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 2813 which will improve the quality of drinking water in Oregon with a focus on source waters and their watersheds. This bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to work with stakeholders to identify resources for watershed protection and green infrastructure and help make them available. It also establishes a grants program through creation of the Community Drinking Water Enhancement and Protection Fund to protect, restore and enhance sources of drinking water. We believe that the focus on the watersheds is an excellent and proven approach to assuring high quality drinking water. Additionally, the funds appropriated under this program can help to leverage federal funding making them even more effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lee".

Jan Lee, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

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