



CITY of REEDSPORT

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To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
From: City of Reedsport

RE: Support for HB 2813 – Ensuring Safe and Secure Drinking Water

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

I am writing today as the City Manager for the City of Reedsport, a small city on Oregon's coast. The City of Reedsport supports HB 2813 because it truly ensures that the communities in this state have access to safe drinking water.

The City of Reedsport first established water rights on June 4, 1919 from a source know as Clearlake which is approximately 5 miles from Reedsport and measures approximately 310 acres. The daily lake draw averages 500,000 gallons in the winter and 800,000 gallons in the summer. This municipal water source provides potable water for not only Reedsport but two additional unincorporated communities of Winchester Bay and Gardiner.

The City of Reedsport is one of only three drinking water sources in the State of Oregon that remain non-filtered and we credit the forethought of our leaders who purchased a large amount of the land surrounding the lake between 1955 and 1999. The last tract that surrounds one of the lakes large arms in an additional 332 acre parcel owned by a timber investment firm. Currently the timber on the property averages 25 plus years old and within a few years will be considered for harvest. Even with approved harvest practices, our drinking water source could be threatened by future sediment contamination from rain runoff, which could drastically increase the cost of maintaining clean and safe drinking water for ourselves and our neighboring communities.

The time to protect the watershed is now. I began conversations with the owners early last year to try to negotiate a conservation easement on the property. However, our goal would be able to purchase the land and implement a forest management plan. This bill could enable the City of Reedsport to accomplish that goal by providing resources, technical assistance or other programs designed towards protecting Oregon's drinking water sources.

Beyond this, HB 2813 will provide meaningful support for many communities facing water insecurity and will help leverage unprecedented federal funding coming down to our state. We encourage Chair Helm and the committee members to support this bill and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deanna Schafer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Deanna Schafer
City Manager