

Submitter: Sara Grigsby
On Behalf Of: Corbett Water District
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB90

I am on the Board of the Corbett Water District. I am testifying in support of SB90. For the record, I am testifying as an individual community member with insights into the challenges facing our water supply. Corbett is a community of about 3000 people and 1100 District accounts. As with all water utilities, our mission is to provide safe and adequate drinking water for our public. Our watershed is completely isolated from any other water source. Gordon Creek, our water source, flows out of public and private forests. Rules around clear cutting setbacks cause siltation in our water supply and at times falling timber damages our system. Drought conditions cause us to draw down our supply to two days at times almost every year. We need forestry rules and systems that support the soil in capturing and holding water. We need monies to maintain our aging system to ensure productive use of our water supply. Strong, vibrant communities with access to clean water and healthy forests are essential for all Oregonians. Yet where funding for counties and key local services is tied to timber harvest on state forests, some communities pay a steep price. The current system is unstable, pitting important government services against healthy forests, clean water, and outdoor recreation—even as both are critical for resilient local communities. By establishing a legislative task force, SB 90 starts the conversation to identify alternative funding sources to fill in gaps to revenue to counties. This study bill will develop recommendations to the Legislature that would stabilize funding for counties and local taxing district that currently receive timber revenues from state forests, while ensure the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, clean drinking waters, and recreation values for Oregon's state forests.

Thank you.