

Submitter: Anna Kaufman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Anna Kaufman, I am an Astoria resident, an artist, and I work with the grassroots citizen group North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (NCCWP), a group that advocates for better protections for our community drinking watersheds in Oregon. NCCWP was founded in 2012 in Rockaway Beach in response to the mass clearcutting of the city's primary source of surface drinking water, the Jetty Creek Watershed.

Since 2000, Jetty Creek has been 90% clearcut and sprayed aerially with pesticides by private logging companies. This has caused several problems for the city and its constituents. Pesticides are showing up in the water, as are carcinogenic byproducts from the high levels of chlorine now needed for sanitation due to the excessive turbidity of the water.

In addition to water quality issues, we're also experiencing increased drought conditions in the summer, and flooding and mudslides in the winter. This, too, is directly related to the amount of deforestation in and surrounding our watersheds. What's more, the water bills paid by residents are reflecting both the increased costs of water sanitation and availability. These bills are not being footed by the wealthy timber corporations — and note that 4.4 million acres are under private industrial ownership in Western Oregon (Coast Range Association, 2020). Instead, the burden falls on local residents.

This issue of water quality and quantity is not only a problem within Rockaway Beach. It is pervasive up and down the coast. And it is becoming increasingly dire as climate change accelerates. As a group, NCCWP's mission is to end clearcutting, pesticide spraying, and slash burning within drinking watersheds here in Oregon, regardless of land ownership. Please help us to protect our community drinking water sources for current and future generations by providing \$5 million for the 2025-2027 biennium for the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). H.B. 3341, a bipartisan bill from Rep. Helm and Rep. Owens, will provide \$5 million for the program to satisfy some of that demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

Sincerely,
Anna Kaufman