



Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District

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Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District Testimony to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

SB5534 Public Hearing May 7th, 2021

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the Committee:

My name is Phil Chick. I serve as manager for the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District, an Oregon Special District that provides water service to the community of Arch Cape on the north coast in Clatsop County. I'd like to share with you a magnificent project that we've been involved in pursuing for the past 4 years. It's called the Arch Cape Forest Project.

This imaginative approach to drinking water protection seeks to acquire 1,457 acres of forestland in Clatsop County with the goal of creating a community forest and protected watershed in the community of Arch Cape. This is a natural infrastructure project that protects water quality and quantity for future generations, and we believe ties directly in with Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision. The proposed management of the land pioneers innovative practices in ecological forestry and is a model of what forestry, clean water, conservation, and recreation can offer when they are all working together. We want to see these continue to thrive in Clatsop County and in the State of Oregon.

Since 2017 the Arch Cape Water District has worked with Sustainable Northwest and the North Coast Land Conservancy to chart a path toward Water District ownership of the property. The foundation for this work is built upon a local volunteer-based effort with years of planning, public meetings, forest tours, and partnership building under its belt.

We've made tremendous progress in the past few years. I'm proud to report that to date the project has been awarded \$3.5 million in grant funds through the USDA's nationally competitive Forest Legacy Program and has established a key partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry. The Clatsop County Commissioners' have generously contributed \$250K as matching funds, and the project has gained funding assistance from Oregon DEQ, Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

This is a project as much about self-sufficiency as it is environmental sustainability; and is a prime example of how local governments can strive to operate in a self-sustaining way, while providing essential services for the community. At its core, community forestry is about giving local residents an equitable voice in management decisions for their forest and water resources.

We're 70% of the way to the purchase price. Although not a construction project per se, this is a shovel ready project that can provide multi-generational benefits to Oregonians, and receiving a lottery bond award of \$2,000,000 would allow a successful completion in early 2022.

Thank you for the Committee's full consideration.

Phil Chick

Arch Cape Water District Manager