



CITY of THE DALLES

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April 29, 2025

Testimony of Mayor Richard Mays
City of The Dalles, Oregon

Before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands

RE: H.R. 655 – “The Dalles Watershed Development Act” -- Land Transfer Between the Us Forest Service and The City of The Dalles, Oregon

The City of The Dalles respectfully requests passage of HB 655 titled THE DALLES WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT ACT. This bill was introduced in January of 2025 by Congressman Cliff Bentz and calls for the transfer of approximately 150 acres of USFS land located in the Mt. Hood National Forest to the City of The Dalles.

The City currently receives about 85% of its water supply from a watershed that consists of lands owned by both the USFS and the City. The land is managed for the protection of water quality as a municipal supply for the 16,000 residents of the City and is critical to meeting the City's current and future water supply needs.

Much of the City's annual summer water supply has historically been provided as a result of snowmelt. Projections indicate decreasing snowpacks so the importance of surface water storage to meet municipal water demand will become increasingly critical in order to provide resiliency for the City's water utility.

The City's Crow Creek Dam and Water Reservoir are located mostly on City owned land but also partially on land owned and administered by the US Forest Service. The City of The Dalles desires and requests acquisition of these USFS properties to consolidate its ownership of Crow Creek Dam and Reservoir in order to improve management practices and to increase storage.