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U.S. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the City of Ilwaco's Bear Ridge Community Forest in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Ilwaco, Washington located at 120 1st Ave N, Ilwaco, WA 98624.

The City of Ilwaco is looking to acquire land and timber rights within the Indian Creek watershed to create a community forest on land surrounding the city's water supply in Pacific County. The community forest proposal seeks to benefit the city and its residents not only through protection of its municipal water supply and the forestland surrounding it, but also through sustainable use of forest resources, expanding access to outdoor recreation, and by avoiding significant potential impacts to the community's local budget.

The City of Ilwaco has proposed the community forest concept as a solution to its water issues. The overall provisions of clean drinking water through the reservoir already consumes 15% of the City's annual budget. A sustainable harvest of the current forest land would increase filtration, maintenance, and other costs. Furthermore, the community forest concept is aimed at implementing sustainable forestry while promoting outdoor recreation.

Funding will be used to acquire the remaining 388 acres of forest to establish a community forest surrounding the city's water supply in Pacific County. The city's proposed project has received a formal support (Resolution NO. 2019-03) from the Ilwaco City Council. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress