

Monday, July 6, 2026 at 7:00:46 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Desalination possibilities for Oregon Coastal Communities
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 10:48:41 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Roger Rees
To: rep.davidgomberg@oregonlegislature.gov
CC: Roger Rees

David,

I am a commissioner for the Beverly Beach Water District. We maintain our own water treatment plant, but the source of our water is Wade Creek. Between Newport and Depot Bay, there are 7 separate water districts. Available land within our water district will support additional housing units and I am particularly concerned about the supply of water as the number of residents increase over the next decade.

Water is the lifeblood of the community, and access to water is of the utmost importance. Because of changing climate conditions, we are not sure of the viability of our water source during the dry summer months, and once in the last 10 years we had had to ask people to cut back on their use of water. As weather conditions change and the community grows, our source of water may become inadequate.

I am a big proponent of desalination. What I would like to see at the state level, is a study of freshwater sources for the coastal communities and to see if establishing a centralized desalination plant would make sense to augment existing freshwater resources. Such a facility could provide desalinated water (it would still need treatment for PH correction and chlorination) to the smaller treatment plants along the coast via truck. A centralized plant has the economy of scale and would reduce the overall cost of having multiple decentralized desalination facilities.

Is there any possibility that you could champion such a process at the state level? I believe there would be many constituents that would support you in this effort.

Thank you for your time,

Roger Rees
Beverly Beach Water District Commissioner, Treasurer