



CLATSOP CARE
HEALTH DISTRICT

Your partners in care, close to home.

www.clatsopcare.org

**Testimony – Board of Forestry November 5, 2015
Salem, Oregon**

Members of the Board of Forestry,

My name is Nicole Williams, CEO of Clatsop Care Health District. Clatsop Care Health District is the only publically owned health district in the State whose sole mission is to provide for the long term care needs for the community. Our geographic district boundaries encompass all of Clatsop County with exception of the Cities of Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach; however, we still continue to offer our services in those cities in addition to serving the south west corner of Washington State for no additional cost.

Currently the District operates three facilities. Clatsop Care Health and Rehabilitation Center serves over 25 patients daily for short term rehabilitation and provides long term care for 25 residents permanently. This facility is the only skilled nursing facility in our region. Clatsop Retirement Village is an assisted living facility that currently has a resident population of 71 and our newly opened facility, Clatsop Care Memory Community, will eventually house up to 32 residents that suffer from a dementia related disease. In addition to our facilities we also provide in home care services to over 50 residents on a daily basis. We employ over 170 full time equivalent employees in the District.

Because we are publically owned and receive tax and timber money, we are committed to serving a certain level of Medicaid population. At the Care Center, over 50% of our resident population is on Medicaid assistance. Even with operating such a high level of a Medicaid census, we still are forced to turn eligible clients away every day because we cannot financially subsidize any additional Medicaid clients. The Medicaid reimbursement rate is significantly lower than the costs of actual services provided. At the Memory Care facility for example – the private pay rate is \$6,000 per month. The Medicaid reimbursement rate is \$2,300.

Timber revenues are an important part of continuing to provide these vital services to our community. It's simple, the less timber revenues receive, the less service we can provide to this vulnerable population. The more timber revenues, the level of assistance that the District can provide will increase.

On a personal note, I am from Clatsop County, born and raised there. Prior to coming to work for the Health District two years ago, I worked for Clatsop County government for over 16 years and have come to understand the importance of our state forests to the community as a whole. I would ask the Board of Forestry to ensure that any management plan for the Northwest State Forests includes an equitable timber harvest level that meets conservation measures while also ensuring that critical funds continue to flow into programs like Clatsop Care.

Thank you for your time today.

Nicole Williams, CEO
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