**[Your Name]**
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Your Email]
[Date]

The Honorable [Representative/Senator’s Name]
[Office Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

**Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Protect Stayton’s Water Supply from Detroit Dam Drawdown**

Dear [Representative/Senator’s Last Name],

I am writing as a concerned resident of Stayton, Oregon, regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) plan to release sediment-filled water from Detroit Dam in the fall of 2025. While this project is intended to improve fish migration, it poses a severe threat to our community’s water quality and that of neighboring cities. I urge you to take immediate action to prevent or mitigate the harmful impacts this drawdown will have on our region’s drinking water supply.

Stayton’s water treatment system relies on slow sand filtration, which is highly sensitive to high turbidity levels. Data from previous drawdowns on the South Santiam River show turbidity levels spiking to 300-500 NTU, with peaks exceeding 2,500 NTU—far beyond the 10 NTU threshold our system can effectively handle. If this happens in the North Santiam River, Stayton’s water treatment plant could become inoperable, leaving thousands of residents and businesses without safe drinking water.

The City of Stayton, in collaboration with other impacted municipalities, has repeatedly engaged with USACE, federal and state officials, and water experts to address this crisis. However, solutions such as pre-treatment or alternative water sources could cost millions of dollars—an unfair financial burden for local ratepayers.

I ask for your leadership and support in urging USACE to:

1. **Reconsider the drawdown altogether** to prevent catastrophic impacts on drinking water.
2. **Delay the drawdown** to allow affected communities time to develop and implement mitigation measures.
3. **Secure federal funding** to help offset the costs of necessary infrastructure upgrades or alternative water supply solutions.

Our community should not bear the consequences of a decision that threatens our health and economic stability. I respectfully request that you advocate for solutions at the federal level and ensure that the necessary resources are allocated to protect Stayton’s water supply.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and to working together to safeguard our community’s access to clean and reliable water.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**
[Your Address]
[Your Email]