

February 26, 2019

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

From: Lawrence Taylor
1684 Irving Avenue
Astoria, OR 9710

RE: HB 2958 - Relating to directors of soil and water conservation districts.

Dear Members of the Agriculture and Land Use Committee

I support removing the land ownership requirements for candidates running for the position of zone director in soil and water conservation districts.

Water and soil conservation are issues that concern all citizens, and no citizen should be barred from serving on these boards.

Here in Clatsop County, many elections for soil and water conservation districts are held without candidates, because of the land ownership requirement. I know people who would file to run if the land ownership requirement was removed.

Because Clatsop County has a population less than 50,000, I urge you to amend the bill by striking page 1 line 28 thru page 2 line 6, text below.

(b) If a majority of the district lies within a county that has a population of less than 50,000, as indicated in the latest certificate issued for the county under ORS 190.520, a person whose qualification as a zone director is based on paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection must, in addition to meeting the conditions in paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection:

(A) Own or manage 10 or more acres of land in the zone and be actively involved in the management of the land; or

(B) Reside within the zone, own or manage 10 or more acres of land within the district and be actively involved in the management of the land.

(c) Candidates nominated for director from a specific zone shall be voted on by all electors within the district.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Taylor