



**Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
2925 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite #2  
Ontario, OR 97914  
(541823-5143)

March 7, 2019

**haglu.exhibits@oregonlegi**  
House Agriculture and Land Use Committee  
HB 2958 Soil & Water Conservation Directors

Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District wants to go on record as opposing this bill.

Following the devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930's, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors. This act gave states a step-by-step guide to create conservation districts while listing their powers and responsibilities. Additionally; zones, land ownership, management and/or a background in natural resources are an important factor of the Soil and Water Conservation District. Without zones and land ownership, special interest groups lacking an agriculture connection will be handed the opportunity to hinder any forward progress of this organization that has been in existing since the dust bowl. In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt broadcasted to the public, September 6, 1936 "It was their fathers' task to make homes; it is their task to keep those homes; it is our task to help them with their fight". With this in mind, we cannot in good faith back this bill which has the potential to negatively impact our community and its vital resources.

Our vision statement is "caring for the natural resources in Malheur County by leading cooperative conservation efforts".

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Newton".

Tim Newton, District Chair  
Rod Frahm, Vice Chair  
Fred Eiguren, Treasurer/Secretary  
Ethan Bentz, Director  
Jimmy Belnap, Director  
John Blake, Director  
Aden Johnston, Director