



Oregon Association of  
Conservation Districts

March 13, 2019

To: House Committee on Natural Resources

[hnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

From: The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Strong Support for HB 2365, Funding to Combat Sudden Oak Death

To Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2365. I am testifying on behalf of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to express support for HB 2365 to combat sudden oak death. OACD serves and represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are local government districts managed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as nonprofit, federal, and state partners like the Oregon Department of Forestry. **HB 2365 would support fighting the sudden oak death crisis that threatens woodlands and increases fire risk.**

Sudden oak death is an invasive pathogen that has killed hundreds of thousands of tanoaks in Curry County. Although the pathogen primarily affects tanoaks and is limited to Curry County, a new European strain of the pathogen that affects evergreens has also been found in Oregon. Sudden Oak Death is detrimental to habitat, and has a potentially devastating impact on forestry operations and nurseries. Furthermore, the trees killed by sudden oak death can increase fire risks. Detecting and acting early are of the utmost importance to controlling and even eradicating any invasive species before it becomes unmanageable. The Oregon Department of Forestry and partners have collaboratively addressed sudden oak death as thoroughly as they can with existing resources, but the pathogen continues to be a challenge, especially with the added challenge of the European strain. **HB 2365 is an opportunity to invest in controlling sudden oak death early, before the pathogen spreads further, making it an efficient use of the state's investment in preventing and mitigating the impacts to our ecosystems and economy.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2365 and the importance of investing in the control of invasive species. **We encourage you to pass HB 2365 to invest in the control of sudden oak death.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Freitas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anna" and last name "Freitas" clearly distinguishable.

Anna H. Freitas  
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Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
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