



Providing Natural Resource Leadership

April 3, 2019

Representative Ken Helm
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature

Oregon State Legislature
Via Email: hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Opposition to HB 2329

Dear Chair Helm and House Committee on Energy and Environment Members,

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) is providing this written testimony to communicate its concern of language and potential impacts of HB 2329. Our district assists and work with landowners, land managers and other constituents in Yamhill County to protect important farmland and high value soils, wildlife habitat and other natural resources.

The district believes the current EFSC process is important to maintain in order to protect agriculture lands, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources. If this process is removed, adequate protections no longer exist. This will be especially problematic if HB 2322 is also approved changing Goal 13.

We continue to see negative impacts associated with fragmentation and conversion of farmland to no-farm uses. The cumulative effects of conversion are a threat to Oregon agriculture. Approving HB 2329 creates an unacceptable avenue for additional land conservation and provides a path for increased scale (size) of conversions. Our district believes the current process should be maintained and HB 2329 should not be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2329.

Respectfully,

Barbara Boyer

District Chair