



Oregon Association of  
Conservation Districts

January 31, 2019

Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use  
[haglu.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:haglu.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

**RE: Support for HB 4155 - Maintained Channels Program**

Chair Clem and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 4155. I am testifying on behalf of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to express support for the bill which authorizes the Department of State Lands and the Department of Agriculture to address rules for the program to maintain channels, enacted in the 2018 session as HB 2437, allowing a regional approach.

Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are special districts governed by boards elected countywide with the mission to protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat on both farm and forest lands while supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as nonprofit, federal and state agency partners. As units of local government working with public and private landowners in their communities, SWCDs provide technical expertise and assist in funding of conservation projects and can facilitate work with local landowners to assist as they implement this program. The roll out of a new program justifies taking a regional and incremental approach statewide to attain the best results, as this legislation would authorize.

Thank you for your support in providing a regional strategy. If we can provide additional information, please let me know and we can work with our members to secure information.

Sincerely,

Jan Lee, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
(503) 545-9420  
<https://oacd.org>