



March 12, 2021

To House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 2572 – Prescribed Burns

Chair Witt and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed 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 federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 2572 because it improves the ability to conduct prescribed burns, an important tool in managing wildfire. Prescribed burning helps to reduce fuel loads in a safe manner. Because the temperatures associated with prescribed burning are kept moderate, there are important benefits to preservation of our natural resources. We are supportive of advancing the Certified Burn Manager Program because it will increase the number of people in the State with the necessary knowledge and abilities. This bill also fixes existing statute to more properly deal with liability from prescribed burning and allows landowners to work together on joint projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.

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