



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
89 Alder Street Central Point OR 97502
Telephone: 541-423-6159 Fax: 541-727-7471
www.jswcd.org

April 16, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

From: Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD)

Re: SB 5502, Oregon Department of Agriculture Budget

Co-Chairs Representative Reardon and Senator Taylor and Members of the Committee,

JSWCD serves Jackson County by protecting our natural resources through education and technical assistance to implement voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) throughout the state are statutorily linked with ODA and depend on ODA for connection with state programs to improve natural resources. Over the last several years, ODA staffing to support SWCDs has declined. At the same time the expectations on SWCDs to participate in broader statewide initiatives have increased. It is imperative that ODA provide proper staffing to help SWCDs complete their missions.

We are particularly concerned about a manager position that is proposed to be deleted in Package 090. We respectfully request that this position be added back into the approved budget. We also remain concerned about other reductions in package 090 that lessen the ability to address water and other natural resources issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Stan Dean, Chair of the Board
Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
stan.dean@jswcd.org