



March 2, 2021

To House Committee on Water  
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Re: Support for HB 3105 – Place-Based Planning Funding

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) supports HB 3105. OACD represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are 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 3105 to provide ongoing funding for the four existing community place-based planning efforts, including the coordinated planning underway in the Harney-Malheur Lake Basin. This area provides a vital agricultural industry and a dynamic high desert ecosystem. A long-term and collaborative water plan is necessary to implement a strategy the basin has experienced with the water table dropping 8-10 feet per year. A local Groundwater Study Advisory Committee is developing a range of priorities to work toward conservation and other strategies, but more collaborative work is required to meet the goals.

The funding identified in this bill would allow continuing work not only in this basin, but also further collaboration through place-based planning in the Upper Grande Ronde, Lower John Day, and Mid-Coast regions of the state.

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

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