



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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January 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Re: **Support HB 2527 – Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program**

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) supports HB 2527 which would streamline and rejuvenate the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP). 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.

This program is currently established in statute and was partially implemented by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The purpose of the program is to provide private landowners with a tax incentive for managing their land for wildlife habitat under the terms of an approved conservation plan. Unfortunately, the existing program required significant administrative resources for ODFW to keep it functioning, and it was put on hold. HB 2527 makes good improvements to the program that will make it a viable and important tool for protecting wildlife habitat in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Stan Dean, Chair of the Board
Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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