

Submitter: Dale Feik

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2527

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,
Chair Ken Helm, January 23, 2023

Re: Washington County Citizen Action Network whole heartedly supports HB 2527 –
Conservation incentives for oak and other priority habitats on private lands.

Dale Feik

Chair and spokesperson of Washington County Citizen Action Network (WC CAN)

MISSION: Washington County Citizen Action Network (WC CAN) is a coalition of grassroots advocates (individuals and groups) dedicated to improving quality of life in Washington County by promoting healthy and sustainable communities, social and economic justice, and open and responsive government.

I read the 37-page document titled 'Intertwine Oak and Prairie Working Group 2022 Strategic Action Plan'. A great deal of time and effort by a wide-range of organizations contributed to the report.

As stated in the report, "...this is at least a significant step in addressing climate change and preserving the little bit of natural resources from the biggest threat – development..." and "Climate change may lead to more frequent and/ or prolonged drought and wildfire—conditions that favor oak. However, rapid climate change may have negative effects on species that occupy small, isolated habitat patches because of limitations on dispersal and migration. Without climate-adaptive conservation and management, the persistence of oak habitats in the Intertwine region is at risk.."

This action is long overdue.

Note: I live in Forest Grove. We have many huge oak trees. I could not tell whether Forest Grove's oak trees are included in the assessment. Because Urban Greenspaces Institute has volunteered to summarize Intertwine Oak and Prairie locations, I suggest that Forest Grove in Washington County be included in the assessment.