

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

Re: HB 2527- Relating to wildlife habitat special assessment; prescribing an effective date. -
SUPPORT

We are in dire need of solutions that protect and conserve our diminishing wildlife habitat. Here in Washington County, only 15% of habitat identified as Significant Natural Resources in the 1980s now remains, and of that 15% only 25% of it is spared from being razed. Pressures from increased development continue to put these important areas at risk.

This bill provides land owners with choices and resources to protect critical oak and other priority habitats. It would support top priorities for organizations working to protect these areas.

I urge you to bring this bill out of committee to the attention of the full legislature. I also urge you to incorporate input and edits on the bill language from Soil and Water Conservations Districts in the North Willamette Valley and Urban Greenspaces Institute to further improve the effects of this important legislation.

Please support HB2527 to revive important conservation incentives for oak and other priority habitats on private lands in the North Willamette Valley.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Susan Mates