



To: The House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Re: HB 2527 Relating to wildlife habitat special assessment

January 23, 2023

Chair Helm and members of the Committee;

Families for Climate urges the committee to advance this bill to the full legislature and to incorporate input and edits from soil water conservation district partners.

HB 2527 revives an important program that allows private landowners the choice and resources to partner with area Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the North Willamette Valley to protect precious oak and other priority habitats.

Oregon's iconic oak prairie ecosystem of the Willamette Valley is 97% gone, due to settlement, agriculture, and the disappearance of traditional fire-based management practices. Families for Climate believes that soil & water conservation districts should have ample tools and incentives at their disposal to encourage landholders to preserve this rich habitat and cultural treasure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noelle Studer-Spevak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping tail.

Noelle Studer-Spevak
Board Secretary, Families for Climate