

Submitter: Chong Kee Tan

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2998

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Feb 11th 2023

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens and members of the Committee on
Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing on behalf of Labishire Homestead Commons in strong support of HB
2998, the Healthy Soils Bill. I am a local farmer, dedicated to growing the highest
quality crops for my community.

At Labishire, I grow a variety of crops, including corn, soybeans, and wheat. I am
proud to be one of many farmers and ranchers across Oregon urging your support for
the Healthy Soils Bill. I have implemented soil health practices such as cover
cropping, reduced tillage, and diverse crop rotations on my farm and have seen
tremendous benefits. These practices have improved the water and nutrient-holding
capacity of my soil, reduced erosion, and increased the resilience of my crops to
extreme weather events.

I strongly believe that the Healthy Soils Bill will provide farmers like myself with the
technical assistance and resources we need to enhance and expand our soil health
practices. This bill will provide farmer to farmer education, equipment, and financial
incentives to farmers and ranchers who want to improve their soil health and are
seeking support.

Improving soil health is not only good for my farm, but it also provides environmental
benefits for my community. By managing soil health, I am able to reduce erosion,
improve water quality, increase biodiversity and pollinator habitat, and sequester
carbon. The Healthy Soils Bill will not only support the work that farmers like myself
are already doing to advance soil health, but it will also position Oregon to receive
federal funding to take this work even further.

I urge you to support and do all you can to advance HB 2998. Thank you for your
consideration and your service.

Sincerely,
Chong Kee Tan
Labishire Homestead Commons
Salem, Oregon