

Submitter: Shawn Looney

On Behalf  
Of: WMSWCD

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

Measure: HB2998

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) is a publicly funded local government special district whose mission is to provide resources, information, and expertise to inspire people to actively improve air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil health. We work with property owners to make improvements to their land for both productivity and for habitat benefits.

We support HB 2998, which establishes the Oregon Soil Health Initiative. This Initiative would provide us with the necessary tools to support our working land producers, including farmers on Sauvie Island and small lot forestry managers along Skyline Ridge. It will position us to receive more federal funding and implement programs to keep the soil covered, maintain the presence of living roots, and enhance biodiversity. Through this Initiative, we will be able to more effectively implement best practices such as reduced or no tillage, cover cropping, application of organic compost amendments, riparian plantings, and agroforestry practices such as silvopasture.

This bill would give our Soil and Water Conservation District, and others around the state, with the capacity to provide training and education on soil health, and achieve our core mission of voluntary on-the-ground projects through collaboration with land owners and managers, and development of critical local partnerships.

We strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 2998.

Thank you, Shawn Looney WMSWCD Board Secretary