

Submitter: Ronald Bunch

On Behalf Of: Self

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

Measure: HB2998

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

I wish to express my support for HB 2998 which would create the Oregon Soil Health Initiative. Members of my family still ranch in Central Oregon. I know from first-hand how extreme weather, particularly drought, heat and wildfire, impacts farming's bottom line. This bill is needed to provide resources to farmers and ranchers to help them adapt to the consequences of unpredictable and extreme weather and protect valuable soil resources. The legislation is also needed and to ensure the viability of Oregon's whole agricultural sector. This includes the well-being of agriculture reliant communities and businesses in both rural and urban parts of the state.

The intent of this bill resonants with me because my grandparents, and other relatives would sometimes recount the awful conditions of the dustbowl years of the Great Depression. We are today again confronting serious drought, heat and other weather challenges and Oregon's Soil Health Initiative is sorely needed to protect and improve soil and water resources and the agricultural economy.

Sincerely,

Ron Bunch