

Submitter: Emily Jones

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

2/14/23

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 One Up Farm in strong support of HB 2998, the Healthy
Soils Bill which would leverage existing programs and expand resources to support
farmers and ranchers with soil health practices that make the most sense for their
land and businesses.

We grow a variety of fruits and vegetables as well as gourmet mushrooms.

I am proud to be one of over 50 farmers and ranchers across Oregon urging your
support for the Healthy Soils Bill.

We value sustainable agricultural practices and understand the connection between
healthy soils and our ability to thrive for generations to come. We have a crop rotation
program which includes the use of nitrogen fixing cover crops to reduce soil erosion,
improve water infiltration and raise levels of soil organic matter. We have an
integrated pest management plan that focuses on cultural and biological controls
instead of chemical ones. We practice no-till agriculture and only incorporate organic
compost. We could benefit from additional classes and resources regarding long term
soil health care. We currently leverage information from SARE and OSU Extension
Services. We would benefit from reduced costs associated with cover cropping,
purchasing seed and equipment. The Soil Health Initiative 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.

The Healthy Soils Bill provides capacity for existing trusted farm service providers
and creates a streamlined process for producers to access the support they want.
Managing for soil health allows producers to work with the land to reduce erosion,
maximize water infiltration, improve nutrient cycling, save money on inputs, improve
plant health, and ultimately improve the resiliency of their working land. Better soil
helps raise better crops. What's good for the land is good for producers.

And improving soil health provides environmental benefits that serve the whole community, including improved water quality, increased biodiversity and pollinator habitat, and sequestered carbon.

The Healthy Soils Bill will support, coordinate, and celebrate the work that many farmers and ranchers are doing to advance soil health. It will also position Oregon to receive federal funding to take this work even further.

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

Emily Jones
One Up Farm