

Submitter: Matthew Gordon

On Behalf Of: Rogue Farm Corps

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

2/16/2023

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 Rogue Farm Corps 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. Rogue Farm Corps trains and equips the next generation of farmers and ranchers in Oregon.

The farmers and ranchers we work with (both experienced and beginning) are implementing soil health practices like cover cropping, organic no-till crop production, management intensive grazing, and on-farm composting, and they want to do more.

The Healthy Soils Bill provides capacity for existing trusted farm service providers and creates a streamlined process for producers to access the support they need to do more of these practices.

Managing for soil health allows producers 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. It also helps their business by creating better yields and more nutrient dense food while reducing labor and input needs. What's good for the land is good for producers. Improving soil health also provides environmental benefits that serve the whole community, including improved water quality, increased biodiversity and pollinator habitat, and carbon sequestered from the atmosphere into the soil.

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.

Matthew Gordon  
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Portland, OR