

Submitter: Jennifer Sprague

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2998

I support HB 2998 to create an Oregon Soil Health Initiative. Soil health is connected to human health. We can't expect to continue to abuse the soil and deplete it of nutrients and biodiversity that benefit the entire ecosystem.

Healthy soil:

produces higher quality plants, whether for landscaping purposes or crops for eating;
improves water quality and air quality;

sequesters carbon;

inhibits disease, which reduces/eliminates the need for toxic substances to be used to boost production from depleted soil or to destroy pests that take advantage of diseased plants, which, in turn,

reduces the negative health impacts of exposure to those toxic chemicals on the growers, pickers, processors, consumers (humans and animals) of the agricultural products and those who live downwind or downstream of the fields;

increases the natural biodiversity in the soil that works together to provide these benefits.

In so many ways, helping Oregonians, particularly land owners, value soil health and work to improve it benefits us all. Please support HB 2998.