



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
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April 17, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

From: Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Re: **Support Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Budget (SB 5539 and SB 5540)**

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham and Committee Members,

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) serves Jackson County by protecting our natural resources through education and technical assistance to implement voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

JSWCD supports OWEBs budget because they are an essential player in funding natural resources projects. We believe that they have done an excellent job in the past and that they should continue forward with full funding for both the organization and their grants program. Over the years, Jackson SWCD has made excellent use of the funds it has received from OWEB. We have restored riparian corridors, addressed agricultural pollution, and made healthier forests.

We have two specific requests for your consideration.

- Post fire recovery grant funds for the 2021-23 biennium have been very important to addressing damage from wildfires in various areas of the state, including Jackson County. Unfortunately, the necessary work cannot be completed by the end of the biennium and funding for the 2023-25 biennium is needed to complete the work. We urge that you provide the funding to get this work completed.
- The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) is an excellent program that helps agricultural lands remain productive through a variety of mechanisms. This program has been underfunded in the past and we urge you to provide full funding to help it succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Stan Dean, Chair of the Board  
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