

Submitter: Eric Butler  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB775

Hi,

I live and work in Clackamas County in the environmental conservation sector. My organization has had a long and fruitful partnership with Clackamas SWCD, and I am proud to count them as colleagues and collaborators in our shared mission. The SWCDs in our urban counties have a unique mission, representing not only rural landowners but also the natural-resources needs of urban and suburban residents, who deserve a voice as the SWCDs determine their priorities. This is not about taking power away from rural landowners; rather, it is about welcoming a larger community to share in and contribute to the common cause of natural resource conservation. Our rural working lands and our urban spaces are interrelated and interdependent, and by enabling anyone sufficiently passionate and committed to serve, we can generate new partnerships and creative solutions in the work that our SWCDs do, helping them rise to the challenges of the future without abandoning what they have done successfully since the beginning. This is why I am urging you to support SB 775.

Thank you for your consideration.