

Submitter: Judy Kent
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB775

Dear Senator Frederick and Committee Members,
Thanks so much for bringing this bill before your committee today. In 2004, voters in East Multnomah SWCD approved a permanent tax rate to improve natural resources, farming and development practices, water quality and soil health. However, the land ownership requirements to run for a seat on SWCD's Board of Directors restricts who can run for office and make decisions over how these voter-approved funds are used. This is inherently unfair to a majority of the population of this district who are paying for these services but are not themselves landowners and lack decision-making power.

I live in Multnomah County and I think that anyone should be legally able to run for Soil & Water Conservation District Director. The current restrictions are particularly challenging for those districts with urban areas and larger populations. This bill as amended is a thoughtful compromise between the values of rural conservation districts and those of urban residents.

Appreciate your support in getting this bill approved.
thank you,
Judy Kent