



March 17, 2025

To Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support SB 576, Japanese Beetle Eradication**

Chairs Golden and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD is writing in support of SB 576. The bill will declare an emergency for the current Japanese beetle outbreak in the Bonny Slope area of Washington County and provide crucial funding for the control of these destructive agricultural pests. Japanese beetles voraciously consume a wide variety of crops that are essential to Oregon's agricultural and nursery sectors. Without significant eradication efforts, Japanese beetles are poised to explode out of the infestation's epicenter to impact the rest of the Willamette Valley, and then across Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Kreiner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Kreiner, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts