



March 17, 2025

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

Re: SB 437 Public Notices

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts 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 providing technical services and supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers, and with federal, state and nonprofit partners.

We are writing in support of SB437 and a request for additional expansion of public notice opportunities.

Like other governmental bodies, SWCDs are required to publish public notices for a number of their actions. These notices range in cost from \$90 to \$3,700 and more depending upon the item being public noticed. Allowing for digital publication may or may not reduce these costs, but is a move in a positive direction.

There are areas of the state where there are no local print or digital news publications. In order to present public notices in a place where the local community will know to go to look for it, we respectfully request that public agencies, particularly local governmental bodies such as SWCDs, be allowed to create a public notice section on their website, to be accessed from the home page of the website; and to be allowed to publish their public notices there.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

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

Andrea Kreiner
Executive Director