



March 18, 2025

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support HB 3116, Place-Based Planning**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens 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 improve soil health, water quality and quantity, and natural habitat by fostering voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 3116 with the -2 amendment because we believe that place-based planning is a very important approach to managing our water resources more effectively in the future. Sections 1 through 4 of the -2 amendment specify a number of good actions to evaluate opportunities for improving the place-based planning process. We are pleased that this work includes evaluations of schedules and opportunities for cost effective basin assessments. We recognize the importance of basin assessments as a foundation for place-based planning work. We are disappointed that this bill does not advance basin assessments to a larger degree, and hope that this can be done in the future.

We support the funding of the four specific place-based planning efforts. It is also important to recognize that other efforts are in the early stages of development and will need funding in the future. It is not ideal to fund such efforts on a case-by-case basis through legislative action, and we hope that some form of continuous funding for place-based planning can be developed in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

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