



Senator Dingfelder, Chair
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

RE: House Bill 4006

Senator Dingfelder and
Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) urges the passage of House Bill 4006 as amended. This amendment requires the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to work with private landowners, cities, counties, and local service districts to mitigate the effects on local economies of designating a species as threatened or endangered.

Oregon's forty-five Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) are defined as local service districts in ORS 174.116. SWCD's are recognized as primary conservation development and implementation entities within their local communities; working very closely with cities and counties encompassed within the local districts. However, their primary asset is access to, and working with, private landowners. Because SWCD's are not regulatory, accomplishing their responsibilities with local landowners and users is in a voluntary manner.

Natural resource initiatives, programs and decisions are more quickly accomplished, more widely supported and maintained into the future, when the local populace is actively and cooperatively engaged in conservation issues and efforts. Experience and time have proven such success.

Knowledge and information concerning native wildlife's possible status as a threatened or endangered species is available from local district directors and staff.

The amended version of HB 4006 provides for all of this to happen.

Jerry Nicolescu
Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts