



Network of Oregon
Watershed Councils
PO Box 13032
Salem, OR 97309
503-362-1246

Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts
PO Box 12931
Salem, OR 97309
503-779-9011



March 26, 2013

Representative Bailey, Chair
Representative Boone, Vice-Chair
Representative Johnson, Vice-Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon House of Representatives

Joint Support for HB 3337

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) express joint support for HB 3337. OACD represents forty-five soil and water conservation districts in every county in Oregon. NOWC supports the efforts of more than eighty watershed councils across every major watershed in the state. Statewide, councils and districts are two primary entities that implement restoration and conservation strategies that could benefit from provisions in this bill.

By and large, HB 3337 helps to clarify many of the objectives that drive the work councils and districts are already completing on the ground – most often in partnership with state and local agencies, as well as other conservation organizations. To the extent that HB 3337 could help create a more coordinated statewide conservation strategy, these strategic partnerships could only be strengthened. Furthermore, we see value in the bill's support of opening markets for ecosystem services. These markets are potentially another tool that councils and districts can leverage to accomplish restoration objectives, especially as it becomes more difficult to fund restoration work.

Given HB 3337's broad language and objectives, should it become law, subsequent rule-making will have significant impact on its ultimate efficacy. We hope the flexibility, as well as advantages, for restoration opportunities outlined in the bill are adequately reflected in the resultant rules.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Nicolescu".

Jerry Nicolescu
Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
jerry.nicolescu@oacd.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Gordon".

Ryan Gordon
Executive Director
Network of Oregon Watershed Councils
ryan@oregonwatersheds.org