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Secretary Treasurer
Janet Olson

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Arnie Roblan
Chair, Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 517

- The Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) maintains the Columbia River levee system which protects the area from flooding from the Columbia River and manages stormwater. MCDD operates four separate drainage districts that extend from Smith and Bybee Lakes on the west, to the Sandy River towards the east. The four districts are:
 - Peninsula Drainage District #1 (ORS 547)
 - Peninsula Drainage District #2 (ORS 547)
 - Multnomah County Drainage District #1 (ORS 547)
 - Sandy Drainage Improvement Company (ORS 554)
- MCDD has been able to provide a reliable, well-managed flood plain for over 95 years to the districts because of positive engagements with stakeholders, efficient operations, and strong relationships with partnering agencies.
- Current strategic initiatives include recertification of the Columbia River levees, ensuring the appropriate governance structure to serve the citizens of the districts and developing a long-term funding solution for the districts.
- Our goal is to maximize effective participation on our boards. Our elected drainage district boards include business owners, residents and public organizations (Metro, City of Portland and Port of Portland).
- Currently our public organizations are represented by either staff of the organization or board members of the organization, depending on how they interpret the statute.
- This bill would establish clarity and allow the public organizations to determine the most effective representative to serve on the board.