

JULIE FAHEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 14
WEST EUGENE & JUNCTION CITY



May 10, 2017

The Honorable Michael Dembrow
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to you in support of House Bill 2785-A. This bill would create an exemption from removal-fill permitting requirements for activities related to building, replacing, or repairing agricultural buildings and associated dwellings that were established on or before January 1, 2017 and received all of the required county approvals.

Issues related to the Department of State Lands' wetland removal-fill permits came to the attention of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee after a farmer in my district lost his barn in a fire. He received the necessary approvals from Lane County to rebuild the barn, with no indication on county maps (or any federal or state map) that there may be wetlands on his property that would trigger the need for a removal-fill permit. After the barn was rebuilt, DSL later determined that the project required a removal-fill permit due to soil characteristics and other features.

Though the issues related to removal-fill permits at DSL are broader than this example, this bill would protect farmers who acted in good faith and received necessary approval from their county.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Fahey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Julie Fahey
State Representative