



Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Dembrow and Representative Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

This letter expresses the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's (EMSWCD's) qualified support for HB 2020. The EMSWCD is a unit of local government, led by an elected board of five directors, serving nearly 700,000 residents in Multnomah County east of the Willamette River. We work with constituents on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis to help them care for land and water.

HB 2020 appropriately recognizes the role of natural and working lands in its goals and purposes. However, **we urge you to consider the following when making specific commitments of the Oregon Climate Investments Fund:**

- The extent to which the restoration, sound management, and protection of natural and working lands are proven and effective mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to climate change; and
- The extent to which voluntary incentives—for improved management and protection of natural and working lands—that are accessible throughout the state to medium and small-scale farmers, ranchers, and foresters will positively impact climate change, but will also have compounding positive impacts on the producers themselves, local rural communities, and local environmental conditions.

We recognize and applaud all of the work that you and others have done to get to this point. Thank you for your continued efforts as a friend of Oregon's natural resources and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Please let me know if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

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