

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
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March 10, 2019

RE: HB 2986

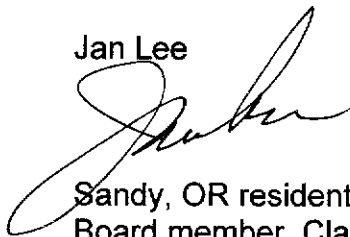
Chair Clem and Committee Members:

I am a member of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District board and have been an active elected member countywide serving on the district board for 10 years. I reside within the city limits of Sandy and do not own or manage 10 acres of land, but I was elected as one of the two at-large seats each district has available. I am speaking on my own behalf.

If a member of the public does not own agriculture or forest land, that person can run as an at-large member as I have, so I do not feel that people are being disenfranchised from running for our district boards. Further, if you volunteer as an associate director as I have in the past, you can even run for one of the zone seats after serving one year as an associate director and developing a conservation plan with district assistance. That plan can be either an urban or a rural plan. We currently have two at-large members and one director who was an associate for one year, developed a backyard conservation program with the district and then served without the 10-acre ownership requirement. As a result, 3 of our 7 directors serve under the existing law without having a requirement of 10 acres of ownership or management.

The goal of conservation districts is to provide technical services for landowners with agricultural and forest lands while also providing urban services to our city residents to further conservation goals countywide. We also act as the county weed board. While our district and the other 44 in the state already provide opportunities for non-landowners to self-nominate in the two at-large seats and by serving as a volunteer associate director, there has been an issue in defining "management" of lands and for that reason I would support a working group to review this statute, last updated in 2009.

Jan Lee



Sandy, OR resident
Board member, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District