



March 12, 2021

To House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Re: Support for HB 2600 - Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF)  
Transfer from Lodging Tax

Chair Witt and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) supports **HB 2600**. OACD represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are special districts governed by countywide elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports **HB 2600** and the funding transfer from lodging tax that would make this program stronger. We feel it is an appropriate transfer because building recreation and conservation programs will create additional opportunities for local lodging and economic programs while providing the opportunity for the public to enjoy the investments made in recreation and conservation projects.

**HB 2171** establishes a foundation for the new Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee and establishes consultation between the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) that will allow the two entities to work together to provide more outdoor opportunities for Oregon citizens. The passage of **HB 2171** is critical to extend the sunset of the OCRF program and the passage of **HB 2600** brings support dollars to the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lee".

Jan Lee, Executive Director  
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