



March 14, 2021

To House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 2663 – Sudden Oak Death

Chair Witt and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by 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 2663 to provide more resources to combat the spread of Sudden Oak Death which is caused by a fungal pathogen. Oak habitat supports a wide variety of wildlife and needs to be protected and preserved in Oregon. Tanoak is the most affected species, but harm can also come to California Black Oak and Coast Live Oak. Sudden Oak Death was discovered in Oregon in 2001 and thrives in Oregon's coastal climate. Curry County is the most affected region of the state and much of the County has been under quarantine for years. It is important to contain and eradicate the disease and prevent it from moving to other parts of the State.

OACD is supportive of using integrated pest management as an approach to managing our natural resources as it recognizes and respects the interdependence of the parts of the ecosystem.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan Dean".

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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