



April 5, 2021

To House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for HB 2795 – Good Neighbor Authority

Chair Witt and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) supports HB 2795. 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.

We support HB 2795 providing facilitation projects under the Good Neighbor Authority. It is imperative that private landowners and government agencies handling wildfire have good working relationships and provide coordination. Private landowners are on the landscape and are typically the first to report a fire and also provide preventative measures. The Authority is a highly effective tool to help manage fuel loads across ownership boundaries.

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

Jan Lee, Executive Director

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