



February 9, 2022

RE: HB 4060 – Federal Grant Access and Coordination

Chair Helm and Members of the Agriculture, Land Use and Water Committee

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts represents the 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local governments providing technical services to landowners and managers statewide. Our conservation districts are among the local governments that the bill could assist as defined in Section 1.

The concept identified in HB 4060 to provide support staff for an office that would more aggressively seek federal grants and assist agencies in coordinated management of those grants would be an excellent tool in assisting our natural resource agencies and their partners to use federal funds most effectively.

Multi-agency collaboration in providing for future natural resource needs both for built infrastructure and natural infrastructure would secure additional tools for meeting Oregon's needs both now and in the long term.

As a group that meets continuously with the natural resource agencies, we have not had experience working with ODOT. We would like to understand more about how the natural resource agencies would be able to coordinate in an effective way with ODOT staff to carry out the needs identified in the legislation. Would there be a coordinating committee or some interactive coalition of agency interests?

We need this legislation. It will provide Oregon with a badly needed tool, especially as more federal funds come our way. A special thanks to the Committee for bringing this legislation forward.

Jan Lee

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS