

Submitter: Megan Horst
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB775
To: Senate Rules Committee
Re: SB 775 Soil and Water Conservation District Board Eligibility

Chair Lieber and Committee Members,

I live in NE Portland. I am also a professor of urban planning at Portland State University, where I study, and other things, persistent inequities in farmland access and ownership and the rising cost of land ownership.

I would like to submit this letter of support for SB 775. SB 775 seeks to update the eligibility rules for soil and water conservation districts so candidates for zoned seats in districts with populations of over 250,000 do not have to own or manage at least 10 acres of land. I believe this is a long overdue update to the current statute.

This statutory update makes a lot of sense and is long overdue to expand the eligibility for candidates running for soil and water conservation district director positions in larger and more urbanized districts.

I live in District X and believe that all people should be able to run for these seats. It ensures that as a voter I have more choices and more opportunities for folks to run. For those of us living in urban neighborhoods, it's unrealistic to believe that any of us will own or manage 10 acres of land.

Thank you for the consideration.