



COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER
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June 6, 2023

To: Senate Rules Committee

Re: Support for SB 775 Soil and Water Conservation District Board Eligibility

Chair Lieber and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Columbia Riverkeeper to urge your support for SB 775.

Columbia Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.

SB 775 would 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. We believe this is a reasonable update to the outdated current statute and will allow more qualified candidates to run for these positions.

We have nearly 13,000 members and supporters in Multnomah County that would benefit from this change to the statute, while preserving the current system for more rural counties.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote yes to support SB 775.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Campbell
Policy Director, Columbia Riverkeeper