

Submitter: Amanda Fritz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB775

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your service. This has been an especially challenging session, and I appreciate your dedication.

Please support this bill. It is highly inequitable to restrict membership of the Board of a Soil and Water Conservation District in Multnomah County to persons owning at least 10 acres. I live in Zone 5 of the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, and I am disconcerted to find I would not be able to run for the Board despite holding a Master's Degree in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University, England and having lots of experience in natural resources management. I co-founded the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and was the Portland City Commissioner in charge of Parks for six years, and also of the Water Bureau with its massive holdings in the Bull Run Watershed and of Environmental Services which owns extensive natural areas within Portland - all of which seems experience equivalent to owning ten acres of personal real estate. While I am happily retired and have no intention of running myself, I know many Multnomah County residents who would make excellent Directors yet are currently ineligible to serve. I am dismayed that they are not be able to run despite being taxpayers for the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. This is taxation without representation, unless a person owns ten acres. And that is likely unconstitutional. Please fix this problem in counties with high population density.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amanda Fritz, RN (retired), MA (Cantab)