



February 10, 2023

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: **Support HB 3142**

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by 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.

OACD supports HB 3142 which will enhance the work done by soil and water conservation districts and others to remove juniper trees. Our districts strongly support water conservation and juniper removal will be one more tool in accomplishing water conservation. In addition, several of our districts have been removing juniper to meet the goal of enhancing sage grouse habitat so this tool will be effective both regarding water as well as habitat conservation.

The panel speaking to you at the hearing on January 14th will offer statistics and details in support of this need. We concur and strongly urge your support of HB 3142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lee".

Jan Lee, Executive Director

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