

Chair Helm and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Andrea Mann. Board member of Roots of Resilience regenerative agriculture and grazing non-profit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2998, which establishes the Oregon Soil Health Initiative to leverage existing programs and expand resources to support farmers and ranchers with soil health practices that make the most sense for their land and businesses. The Bill is focused on expanding strategies to advance soil health including technical assistance, equipment, outreach, education, financial incentives, and research.

Agriculture drives All Oregon County's culture, economy, and land conditions.

The bill would give Regenerative Agriculture and Grazing non-profits like Roots of Resilience, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts the capacity to promote soil health principles and practices to Oregon's agricultural communities by:

(A) providing training and education for agricultural producers to promote soil health across this state's diverse regions and production types.

(B) collaborating with local partners and landowners to promote soil health demonstration projects to showcase practices and build statewide awareness and understanding; and

(C) highlighting existing soil health improvement efforts by Oregon farmers and ranchers.

The Healthy Soils Bill would give Non-profits and Soil and Water Conservation Districts the capacity to do this work to support farmers and ranchers in our State.

Thank you for your support of HB 2998.