

Submitter: Marissa Theve

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2998

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2998, the Healthy Soils Bill

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, 2/16/23

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens and members of the Committee:

Thank you for accepting this testimony. I enthusiastically encourage you to support this bill, echoing the testimony of many other individuals and groups, including the Oregon Society for Soil Scientists as presented by Pam Keller. As a soil scientist and private citizen concerned with our changing climate, I see the value in encouraging soil health at the state level and leveraging established soil health stakeholders. Many government, NGO, and private organizations have been working on soil health for decades, so please consider this work to add value to the Bill. While some of the terminology presented is incorrect (i.e. tith is not a term used by soil scientists; soil structure is correct term), I believe this Bill has the potential to help further efforts to reverse soil degradation that has taken place across the state's highly diverse soil types since colonists arrived nearly 200 years ago, with of course the majority of this harm happening after combustion engine driven equipment was introduced to agriculture and livestock were separated from crop fields. I hope you will consider refining the science and stakeholders that are included in the Bill, with especial consideration to include not only traditional indigenous knowledge, but also the tribes themselves directly. I look forward to watching the refinement and implementation of this Bill in the coming years. Thank you.