

Submitter: Tom Rietmann

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2998

My name is Tom Rietmann. Our farm on the dry side of Oregon produces small grains and cattle, all without irrigation. I am a member of the Oregon Farm Bureau, Cattlemen's Association and Wheat Growers League but am not representing them with my comments.

We strive for the convergence of ecology and economics with practices that optimize production and improve the land. Our soil tests quantify increasing soil organic matter. Farming without tillage and congregating cattle in larger herds and rotating them frequently has resulted in vigorous plant communities that build soil.

Our soil is our equity.

High fertilizer and chemical prices drive us to convert more land to perennial crops and adds incentive to use cover crops.

When we have the right plants in the right place and manage them properly, they build soil health.

It is a shift in the way we think. The Healthy Soils Bill will expand resources to help farmers and ranchers make this shift. Benefits are not only for producers but also watersheds, fish, wildlife, streams and rivers.