

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

2/16/2023

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing on behalf of Sakari Farms in strong support of HB 2998.

Sakari Farms is a women/Native American owned farm in Bend, Oregon specializing in growing traditional native foods, creating value added products and increasing tribal enterprise throughout the State of Oregon. I am proud to be one of over 50 farmers and ranchers across Oregon urging your support for the Healthy Soils Bill.

Sakari Farms implements regenerative agricultural practices including but not limited to burning crops, crop rotations, IWM practices, soil building practices, use of biochar, organic inputs, pollinator habitat, etc. With the recent increase in climate issues causing damage to our crops, it is imperative that we focus our future efforts on our soil health. This will reduce our pest pressure, increase our carbon exchanges in the soil, reduce erosion issues, and increase water use/efficiency.

The Soil Health Initiative could provide technical assistance related to soil health for tribal producers, which is needed. There's also a possible role for the NW Intertribal Agriculture Council as a collaborating entity and a seat for tribal interests on the Soil Health Advisory Committee, which will be important to ensure the Initiative serves Oregon's tribal producers.

Oregon farmers are in a pivotable point of securing food resources for our community, and the challenges of drastic climate change issues, having the Healthy Soil Bill passed will provide the relief that our farmers and community need to continue supporting a thriving economy throughout Oregon.

Please support and do all you can to advance HB 2998.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Spring Alaska Schreiner  
Owner/Indigenous Agriculturalist  
CEO Sakari Farms