



Harney Soil & Water Conservation District  
PO Box 848  
530 Hwy 20 South, Hines, OR 97738  
Phone: 541.573.6446  
Email: admin@harneyswcd.net

February 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water  
From: Harney Soil and Water Conservation District  
Re: Support HB 3222

Chair Helm and members of the Committee,

The Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) is a local special district that services Harney County in its entirety. The District protects and enhances soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat through supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 3222, which establishes funding for the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative. HSWCD is an active member of the Collaborative and if enacted, HSWCD will aid in the design and implementation of projects on private land within the Harney Basin. Received funding will be used to seek out match from other federal funding and accelerate the restoration potential for the benefit of the Harney Basin. The District currently has two riverine habitat restoration projects under consideration. These projects have the potential to sequester carbon with floodplain connectivity, purify water and improve instream habitat. Improved riparian habitat for elk and migratory birds may provide opportunities of ecotourism and financial benefit to the county. Support through HB 3222 sponsorship would increase implementation of these projects.

The Bill would give us the capacity to do this work to support farmers and ranchers in our county. Thank you for your support of HB 3222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kesling", written in a cursive style.

Jason Kesling  
Harney SWCD, District Manager  
541-573-6446 ext.4  
kesling@harneyswcd.net