

Submitter: Rachel Dvorsky  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB775

May 22, 2023

To: Senate Rules Committee  
Re: SB 775 Soil and Water Conservation District Board Eligibility  
Chair Lieber and Committee Members,

I would like to submit this letter of support for SB 775.

SB 775 seeks to update the eligibility rules for soil and water conservation districts so candidates for zoned seats in counties with populations of over 250,000 do not have to own or manage at least 10 acres of land. We believe this is a long overdue update to the current statute.

? The statute that limits eligible candidates for zoned seats to those who own or manage at least 10 acres does not realistically address the needs of Soil and Water districts with larger populations and significant urban considerations when making policy decisions regarding soil and water health.

? SB 775 only impacts six soil and water conservation districts in Oregon because it only applies to counties with a population of over 250,000, recognizing that smaller more rural districts aren't necessarily having to deal with urban issues as they relate to soil and water health. It is a reasonable compromise that responds to actual needs.

? For those of us living in urban neighborhoods, it's unrealistic to believe that any of us will own or manage 10 acres of land.

? I live in District 3 and believe that all people should be able to run for these seats. It ensures that as a voter I have more choices and more opportunities for people to run.

? There are no restrictions to run for any other special districts such as school boards, fire districts, etc., who are using public tax dollars in open elections on the ballot. I don't believe that the restrictions on who can run for the public office of Soil and Water Conservation District is right or ethical.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Rachel Dvorsky