



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

KIT JOHNSTON • MARY STARRETT • DAVID "BUBBA" KING

535 NE Fifth Street • McMinnville, OR 97128-4523
(503) 434-7501 • Fax (503) 434-7553
TTY (800) 735-2900 • www.yamhillcounty.gov

February 13, 2025

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District
2200 SW 2nd St
McMinnville, OR 97128

Re: Letter of Support for the Conservation Collaborative

The Yamhill County Commissioners are pleased to offer our support for Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the development of the Conservation Collaborative, a multi-agency agricultural and natural resource conservation service center that will serve as a hub for conservation efforts throughout Yamhill County.

Yamhill SWCD plays a vital role in leading conservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources, and we recognize the increasing demands on your organization. With the expansion of critical programs addressing wildfire mitigation, carbon sequestration, energy resilience, erosion control, and urban agriculture, the need for an updated and expanded facility is clear. The growth in your staff and services over the past three years further demonstrates the necessity for a space that can accommodate the continued efforts to support local landowners, producers, and the broader community.

We commend Yamhill SWCD's collaborative approach, working in partnership with key organizations such as the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Greater Yamhill Watershed Council (GYWC), Edible Landscapes of Yamhill County, Yamhill Conservation Trust, and others. The opportunity to co-locate multiple conservation partners under one roof will enhance efficiency, improve access to services, and create a more effective network for addressing the region's most pressing agricultural and natural resource challenges.

Recognizing the financial constraints associated with this endeavor, we support your efforts in identifying and securing funding sources to make this vision a reality. We encourage state, federal, and private funding agencies to consider the long-term benefits of investing in a facility that will serve as a cornerstone for conservation and agricultural support in Yamhill County. We appreciate the essential work of Yamhill SWCD and its partners and look forward to working together to advance this initiative.

Sincerely,

Kit Johnston
Chair

Mary Starrett
Vice-Chair

David "Bubba" King
Commissioner

Approved by the Yamhill County Board of
Commissioners on 2.13.25
via Board Order 25-047