



April 9, 2008

Mr. Toby Rodgers, President
Washington Society of Professional Soil Scientists (WSPSS)
PO Box 881
Newman Lake, Washington 99025

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

The Association of Women Soil Scientists (AWSS) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization of women and men in soil science who support the following goals:

- To establish and maintain high standards for professional soil scientists;
- To promote and enhance communication among professional soil scientists;
- To promote a dialogue of soil information and to encourage an interchange with other technical and scientific communities;
- To promote better understanding of the role of soil scientists;
- To provide assistance and encouragement for women in non-traditional fields and for women seeking employment in the field of soil science.

The 120+ members of AWSS represent practicing and future soil scientists in the private consulting, industry, academia, and governmental sectors. AWSS supports Washington's legislative initiative to recognize and manage soil scientists through a licensure program at the state level. It is through licensure and certification programs that we, as conscientious scientists and citizens, can ensure a concerted effort to protect public interests by establishing criteria for soil science professionals and the quality of their work.

Soil scientists are innately involved with many environmental, agricultural and social issues that impact human health and the health of land, air and water resources. The future of our welfare and the welfare of the environment should only be placed in the qualified hands of professionals who meet and follow established competency standards, continuing education requirements and ethical standards established by a licensing body. Therefore, AWSS supports and encourages the State of Washington to pass state level licensing legislation for Soil Scientists.

Sincerely,

Jamie Patton, Ph.D.
Chair, Association of Women Soil Scientists

*Encouraging and
supporting women
in soil science*

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