



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF CONSULTING SOIL SCIENTISTS, INC.

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March 11, 2009

Sen. Ed Murray
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Sen. Jerome Delvin
Sen. Craig Pridemore

Re: SSB 5698 (Soil and Wetland Scientist Certification)

Hon. Sen. Murray, Sen. Kohl-Welles, Sen. Delvin and Sen. Pridemore

I am pleased to hear that the soil and wetland scientist certification bill is getting close to a Senate vote. Your efforts have been instrumental in getting the bill this far and it is greatly appreciated. The National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists represents hundreds of soil science professionals that support this kind of certification. State certification is occurring in numerous states -- just last week we met with the State of California to discuss this topic in greater detail (it's a big step for them!). It's wonderful to see that Washington at the beginning of the certification wave.

We have found that State certification has been an effective tool in getting quality services and work products to the public. That is, certifications tend to bring forth those individuals that have good credentials and quality services offered to the public. We all know how one bad individual can spoil the reputation of an entire industry, so certification helps reduce the number of bad work experiences.

As an owner of a small consulting business in Portland, Oregon, myself and other staffers will be one of the first to line up for this certification. I will seek both the soil and wetland certification, while one or more staff will seek the wetland scientist certification. I feel such certification is good for both the staff and clients that we serve in Southwest Washington. Again, thank you for your efforts to support this bill -- your vote in favor of this bill is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Scoles, RPSS, PWS
2009 NSCSS President