

SB

313

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: amel.s.chun@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:37:11 AM
Attachments: [SB0313_LNR_02-04-15_WTL.pdf](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carty S. Chang	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 04, 2014
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 313
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Senate Bill 313 proposes to appropriate \$350,000 of general revenues in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017 for operating expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.**

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program was established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 180 and is administratively attached to the Department. The purpose of the program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each of the 16 SWCDs is governed by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 districts. In FY 2014-2015, HACD and the SWCDs will receive a total of \$68,400 in general funds and \$210,000 in interdepartmental transfer funds from the Department of Agriculture for their operations through the Department's LNR 141 Program. Other required funds for their operation, staffing and implementation of projects must be sought in the form of grants from other agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

CARTY S. CHANG.
ACTING CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: grayboy24@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:55:03 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Takayama	Waiakea Soil and Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: chris@hfbf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:53:14 AM
Attachments: [SB 313 HACD WTL 02_04_15.pdf](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments: Strong Support! Vital services! Mahalo!

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 313
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports SB 313, which seeks an appropriation for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing of Conservation Specialists.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are mandated by HRS §180. The SWCD is comprised of volunteer directors that are closely tied to Island communities. Many of these SWCD directors are also farmers, ranchers and members of HFB. They understand the issues related to land use, stewardship, resource management and agriculture.

The 16 SWCDs assist the agricultural communities throughout the entire State. They help farmers and ranchers develop and process conservation plans and address issues relating to erosion, water quality, agricultural water, and grading and grubbing plan reviews.

State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has historically funded districts \$207,000 annually, for the staffing of Conservation Specialists. Effective December 31, 2013, DOH totally eliminated these funds and has not provided any replacement funding. Thus there is a backlog of conservation plans throughout parts of the State (particularly Oahu).

Under these tough economic times, the SWCDs funding continues to get squeezed at the State, County and Federal levels. The requested funds, while nominal, are vitally important for farmers, ranchers, agricultural landowners, livestock, wildlife, the environment and the present and future citizens of the State of Hawaii.

Since all SWCD Directors are unpaid volunteers, SWCDs take pressure off county planning departments and help alleviate backlogs. In working through public-private partnerships, SWCDs provide free engineering services and technical assistance for low-impact projects. These cost savings are reflected in lower food and foliage production costs that are ultimately saved by consumers and make Hawaii's producers more competitive in the marketplace.

HFB considers the SWCDs a vital partner in Hawaii's agricultural Industry and our Island communities.

Please pass SB 313.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure of critical importance.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:30:23 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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February 3, 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
TESTIMONY ON SB313
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Chair Thielen, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee;

MCFB is in strong support of HB 439, providing funding for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. We support the comments provided by the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts(HACD).

During a recent meeting, it was said that stewardship is accomplished with one foot in agriculture and another in conservation, connected with common sense. Our Hawaii State Constitution addresses the need agricultural sustainability and increased self sufficiency. Farmers and ranchers need many tools to grow crops and raise livestock successfully while protecting the environment for future generations. The services of HACD is a critical component addressing this need. HACD is the over-arching body uniting the Soil and Water Conservation Districts(SWCD) across the state. HACD partners with the Federal USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services that provides technical training along with facilities and equipment and counties that provide additional staffing support specifically for activities beyond the scope of staff and resources addressed in this measure. The importance of the SWCDs is highlighted in its' origin. Before the formation of SWCDs across the country, there was a lack of adoption of conservation practices despite the clear need to protect soil and water. The Federal Government recognized the need of a bottoms up approach that created the SWCD as the mechanism to deliver the research and practices to result in conservation measures on the ground. The members of the SWCD are largely volunteers. The dollars requested in this measure funds technical personnel that prepare conservation plans to ensure farmers and ranchers are able to have sound stewardship practices.

Historically, funds were allocated as part of the barrel tax funds and the DLNR budget. Starting in January 2014, DOH has decided that these funds should not be part of the barrel tax, resulting in an emergency legislative appropriation in the spring of 2013, followed by an appropriation in 2014 that allowed the organization to function. This year, the two budgetary requests are combined into one item to streamline the funding source and clarify the total dollars associated with the program.

During these financially difficult times, HACD provides an excellent example of public-private partnerships to address the needs of society. If HACD were a pure government function, its' cost will be multifold, without the ability to cover the range of services delivered today. Hiring 80 plus people that currently assist in the program would be unreasonable. In addition to meeting conservation needs, HACD is also the body that works with the Federal Government to bring federal resources for water source development. Many of the large infrastructures across the state were funded through this process. Most recently, the Lahaina flood control system, Upcountry Dual Line and Hamakua Ditch are funded through

[Type text]

this process. Our delegates are in Louisiana this week seeking additional federal funding to increase Hawaii's capacity to address droughts.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure.

From: [Joy Gold](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: [Larry Jeffs](#)
Subject: SB313, HACD Testimony, Weds Feb 4
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:55:29 PM
Attachments: [LJF_SB313_HACD_SenWTL.pdf](#)

Aloha,

On behalf of Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, please accept the attached testimony for:

SB 313, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

WTL Hearing

Weds. Feb 4, 2015

2:45 pm – Room 224

Please call me on my cell phone 368-1146 if there are any questions about the testimony submittal.

Thank you,

Joy

Joy Gold

Joy Gold Unlimited

1136 Union Mall, Ste. 403

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808-526-3770 Mobile: 808-368-1146 Email: joy@joygoldunlimited.com

www.joygoldunlimited.com

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**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

SB 313, Relating to The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
Senate WTL Committee
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
2:45 pm
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Thielen, and Members of the Senate WTL Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have had more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The SWCD framework and authority were created through HRS 180. It helps farmers and ranchers with conservation plan development as well as assist respective County governments' with grading permit and plan reviews. Throughout the State, 80 volunteer directors in 16 SWCD work with local area partners to accomplish its work that includes conservation and environmental education outreach.

Your support of this funding request will go far toward strengthening environmental stewardship of agriculture soil and water use, particularly as Hawaii welcomes many new farmers and ranchers. It will also facilitate eligibility of farmers and ranchers for federal and state programs that require conservation plans and its implementation at the farm or ranch level.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: pono@ponoholo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 6:50:49 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harry von Holt	Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: bennette.misalucha808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 5:27:16 PM
Attachments: [SB 313.pdf](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bennette Misalucha	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Strong support of SB 313
Providing funds for operation
of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
February 4, 2015, 2:45PM in conference room CR224

Aloha Chair Thielen and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association and we are in direct support of the intent of SB 313.

We recognize the important role which the Hawaii Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts plays in maintaining the cultural and ecological balance of our environment. As an entity charged with educating the public and maintaining conservation project and programs, we can anticipate this role growing as our State continues to accommodate the needs of our growing population.

With the work usually carried out by a committed volunteer group, there is a need for greater capacity.

We believe the sixteen districts that compose the Hawaii Association of Conservation need to be supported with adequate resources that will enable them to do their mission properly.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of SB 313.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

HCIA 2014-2016 Board of Directors

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Kirby Kester

Vice President
Alan Takemoto

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Tel: (808) 594-3611
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Cc: nwalshjones@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:09:18 PM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Jones	Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	No

Comments: We submit this testimony support SB 313 to provide funds for staffing of Hawai`i's conservation districts. For too long, organizations like the SWCD have languished with underpaid or unpaid, part-time staff in their struggle to keep pace with the needs of all Hawai`i's farmers for conservation plans and/or grading and grubbing reviews. Funding to pay administrative staff will speed up this conservation planning process considerably. For this reason, we respectfully urge you to support SB313 and pass it out of your committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present comments supporting this measure.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 10:24:11 PM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Zweng	'Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaiian Association of Conservation Districts plays an important in protecting our environment. I support funding provided to DLNR for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. Mahalo! Paul Zweng 'Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC

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Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:18:19 AM
Attachments: [SB 313 Conservation District Funding 2015 Senate WTL.pdf](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 6:31:39 PM
Attachments: [SB 313 HACD testimony.docx](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Monsanto Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

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MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

TESTIMONY ON
SB 313
RELATING TO THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Chair Thielen and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii.

We **support** SB 313 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). The HACD is one of the most important organizations that assist farmers and ranchers in maintaining and improving their agricultural lands. They provide an invaluable land stewardship service that farmers and ranchers can utilize to develop a soil and water conservation plan that protects the natural resources overall. These plans are often times required of farmers and ranchers to qualify for state and federal programs. The HACD has been well underfunded and needs additional funds to better service Hawaii's agricultural community.

We strongly support SB 313 that provides the HACD the adequate funding that is necessary to support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: ayeh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:20:13 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:38:53 PM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Clegg	Individual	Support	No

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Cc: dschell@islandprincesshawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:04:34 AM
Attachments: [Testimony submitted in regard to SB 313.doc](#)

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Schell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii State Senate
Water and Land Use

Regarding SB313

February 3, 2015

Greetings.

My name is David Schell and I serve as a director on the Puna Soil and Water Conservation district in southeast Hawaii County. I am writing to ask your support in passing SB313 to provide funding for a conservation specialist position and general operations of the SWCD's.

The districts work to help farmers and ranchers practice good conservation management by providing them with technical assistance and access to USDA and NRCS programs that help offset some of the costs for water and soil improvement projects. They also work in conjunction with the counties in Hawaii to encourage responsible grubbing and grading practices and to mitigate the impact of farm husbandry waste on the environment.

Without the state's financial support and the work of many volunteer directors, our island environments would be more vulnerable to degradation. Although the districts do not have a large public presence, the work we do quietly is valuable and deserving of your continued support.

Thank you for your time.

David Schell
GM, Island Princess Macadamia Nut Company
Kea'au

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 1:01:50 PM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Conservation Specialists positions that would be funded by this bill are another key element in ensuring the farmers and ranchers have access to the resources that they need to develop and maintain conservation plans. It is critical that this bill is passed and funded in order to assist ag with natural resource conservation.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:28:32 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Zeman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The sustainability and success of Hawaii's farmers, nurseries, and conservation areas is made possible by land owners who have access to the technical resources and guidance supplied by the conservation districts, NRCS, and other farmers. A paid conservation specialist is required to assist the district boards, who are serving on a volunteer basis, provide these resources to their cooperators. It is not possible for NRCS alone to provide these services and many land owners are and have been waiting for assistance for longer than is reasonable. Support of this bill is a tangible means of support to Hawaii's agriculture community, striving to provide food and fiber while conserving our valuable and unique resources.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: sailorlady1@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:09:44 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Robblee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Farmers have a difficult enough time as it is. Conservation Planners work with farmer directly providing real help and real information. They need to be available to help farmers who are critical to our life style and economy. Thank you.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:54:18 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:37:35 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: If the state supports agriculture then it needs to support the conservation association that assists farmers with land management through conservation planning and site specific plans.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB313 on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:21:36 AM

SB313

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for WTL on Feb 4, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room CR224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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