

Senator Schaible,

I am writing to you concerning SB2308.

I feel that SB2308 as amended would affect how soils are treated in all aspects of soil interpretation. The amendment outlines the qualification needed to be identified as a soil classifier but does not identify who would vet the individual qualification. Since 1973 this has been the position of the soil classifiers board. I spent a 47 year career as a soil scientist, first with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which was previously known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS); then as a private soils consultant for 14 years. Preserving the soils health has always been important to the agricultural and soil science communities, whether it was doing mine land reclamation, identifying suitable sites for waste disposal, or reclaiming oil and brine spills.

Understanding how soils functions under certain uses is very important! After working with many farmers and ranchers over the years I know how important the soil's health is to the agricultural community. Soil classifiers understand and follow the regulations established by the state in order to maintain the best possible soil's health. Passing this bill, as presented, could certainly change this quality control!

I feel retaining the Soil Classification Board sited in SB2308 would be beneficial to agriculture, conservation, and the state as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lawrence E. Edland,

Registered Soil Classifier