From: Sam @
To: JWMNR Exhibits; nelliemcadams@gmail.com
Subject: HB 3249
Date: Monday, June 26, 2017 8:27:12 AM

Date: June 26, 2017

To: Senator Richard Devlin, Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chairs of the Ways & Means Committee and Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

Regarding: HB 3249

I am part of a four generational family farm, "Country Heritage Farms" in Yamhill County that raises the typical mid valley farm commodities. Many of these are for human consumption and exports to other states and even international markets which helps our balance of trade.

As you know, farmers and their farmland are under increasing pressures for development and conversion to other non-farm uses which if it continues, at some point, the threshold will be crossed and the valley will cease to be a producer of high quality farm commodities. It has been said, and I strongly believe, that the richness of the soils and moderate temperament environment make it the one of the best farmland in the world.

It should also be recognized that the current farmers in the valley know and love the land and how to care for it. We appreciate not only the productive soils, but also the natural areas that are home to many precious native plants, native birds and wildlife. On our farm, we take time and make the effort to preserve these areas.

But we need some help. HB 3249 is a wise step and in the right direction. I urge you to do what you can to move it along so it can be enacted and help us keep the valley productive for all beneficial resource needs. This will benefit all Oregonians, not only economically, but also for the their visual enjoyment of farmland and the natural areas.

Sincerely,

Sam Sweeney
Country Heritage Farms