Consent

HB 2086 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

Action Date:	02/05/19
Action:	Do pass with amendments and be placed on the Consent Calendar. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	7-0-0-0
Yeas:	7 - Boshart Davis, Clem, Helm, McLain, Post, Smith DB, Williams
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	1/24, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Revises Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program definitions and terminology to clarify purpose, administration, and eligibility criteria of the program. Clarifies that the purpose of the program is to 'preserve and protect' working land rather than 'support' working land. Clarifies that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board approves program rules with assistance from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Expands eligible holders of conservation management plans from 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations to any not-for-profit other than a state agency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program implementation timeline and progress
- Language clarification is a result of 2018-2019 rulemaking process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Further revises Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program terminology.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (Commission) were established by the legislature in 2017 to provide voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources on agricultural lands. In 2018, the Commission engaged in rulemaking related to program administration, technical assistance, farm and ranch succession planning, working land covenants and easements, and conservation management planning. Rulemaking was completed and approved by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in January of 2019.

House Bill 2086 A would revise Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program statutes to clarify purpose, administration, and eligibility criteria of the program.