

Good Afternoon, my name is Jim Coonan and I am providing testimony in support of funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program or OAHP. Our family owns C2 Cattle Company an 8000 plus acre ranch outside of Eagle Point, Oregon. Highway 140 runs through the ranch and connects Eagle Point and the Rogue Valley to Klamath Falls. Our family has been involved in southern Oregon forestry and agriculture since the 1800's. C2 Cattle is focused on raising organic, grass fed beef that we sell to Whole Foods. As a family we have been dedicated to being good stewards of the land while running a profitable business. As an example of our stewardship we have provided a forestry easement to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) on the roughly 1300 acres of forest land we manage. We have also worked closely with various other organizations including the Freshwater Trust and The Rogue River Watershed Council for stream restoration which include the North and South Little Butte Creeks and Salt Creek; these streams are consider critical fish habitat.

Currently the family is in discussions regarding how to sustain the family ownership of C2 to the next generation. We are in discussions on the possibility of providing to the SOLC an easement on the entire property in return for cash that could be used to buy out some of our family owners. The source of the funding would come through the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS. To complete the easement process NRCS requires a 50% match of dollars. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program or OAHP is ideally suited to help fund this match that otherwise may make this transaction much more difficult or impossible. As you are probably aware OAHP has already been created and now only needs the funding to start making a difference. These are dollars that could be put to use now to help preserve beautiful and productive ranches like C2 Cattle. We encourage you to fund the OAHP now.

Thank you.

Jim Coonan
President C2 Management Company
General Partner of C2 Cattle Limited Partnership