

Oregon Joint Ways and Means Committee
CoChairs and Members of the Committee

I am here asking for you to consider funding \$10 million to fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Our Program has asked to be funded the previous two bienniums and are here asking again.

We were created by the 2017 legislature and have developed the necessary administrative rules to operate the program as intended. We have surveyed potential participants that would apply for this program and had interest that would have required over \$20 million to fund.

OAHP is be administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board but cannot use OWEB's existing lottery funding.

This Program has four grant programs: working lands easements, conservation plans, succession planning, and technical assistance.

The Working Lands Easement grant program is setup to take advantage of the Federal NRCS working Lands Easement program that would fund 50% of an easement, while our OAHP would fund 25%, and private or landowner contributions would makeup the balance. At this time without a funded state program Oregon has not been effective in bring those federal dollars in to our state that would boost considerably the federal conservation funding in Oregon.

In conclusion this funding would support agriculture, support conservation on working lands, leverage federal funds, and support rural economies.

All this and we are set up and ready to operate and fund immediately.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas Krahmer
Chair of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission .