



March 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Pacific Forest Trust

**RE: Support for HB 3366 – Full Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program**

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT), a non-profit land trust conserving over 20,000 acres of Oregon forestland, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3366, a bipartisan bill that would fully fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). HB 3366 would help farmers and ranchers protect their land from fragmentation and development, while keeping it in production and benefiting local economies and communities. HB 3366 includes \$10 million in grants and \$800,000 in administration funding requested by OWEB for the 2023-2025 biennium. PFT is proud to be part of a large and diverse coalition of non-profit organizations, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who support this measure and want to see it pass this session.

This bill would significantly strengthen our conservation efforts in Southern Oregon along the Siskiyou Crest. Our work there has given us the opportunity to build relationships with many conservation-oriented landowners, many of whom own a variety of mixed-use forestry and agricultural lands. The additional funding provided by HB3366 will enable PFT and willing landowners to conserve these vital lands that provide an array of public benefits (healthy watersheds, community education about our food system, and critical habitat preservation) while also enhancing climate resilience to catastrophic wildfire, drought, and other environmental stressors that affect the region. In addition to conservation values, many of our landowner partners in the region want to use conservation easements in their succession planning in order to preserve the lands they have worked so hard to steward over their lifetimes, ensuring they remain protected and resilient in perpetuity after they are gone.

HB 3366 will provide a sustainable source of state matching funds to protect our agricultural and ranch land across Oregon. In addition, the program provides funding for conservation management planning, technical assistance, and succession planning to support our farmers and ranchers. We encourage Chair Helm and the committee members to support this bill and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,  
Arian Dehnou

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arian Dehnou", is positioned below the typed name.