



To: Honorable Members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee

900 Court Street NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Re: OR H 3366 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Position: Support

Date: March 15, 2023

Honorable Members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 3366, a bill designed to increase investments in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund. Recognizing the value that the fund, operated by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, provides for the protection and management of Oregon's private lands managed for agricultural or natural resource conservation purposes, we agree that these investments are critical for maintaining support for Oregon's heritage, rural economies supported by agricultural producers, and natural resources conserved through participation in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Though publicly owned lands and waters do outnumber private acreage in Oregon, it is important to recognize the role of private working lands not only in terms of supporting the Beaver State's agricultural economy and heritage, but also their role in the conservation of Oregon's natural resources. This includes the public trust fish and wildlife resource upon which Oregon's sportsmen and women rely. These realizations highlight the importance of working with landowners to ensure that they have the information and resources needed to accomplish these and other land use objectives in support of the state's agricultural heritage and natural resource conservation.

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While federal programs, including those authorized through the Farm Bill, can help achieve many of these goals, there remains a significant need for locally-led, state-focused efforts. Fortunately, the additional support for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund proposed by HB 3366 provides an opportunity to meet this demand. By increasing capacities to deliver programs and increasing the availability of programmatic funding, the legislature has an opportunity to provide landowners, and all Oregonians who benefit from the conservation values afforded through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, with the chance to invest in the future of Oregon's agriculture and conservation heritage.

With this in mind, we again ask members of the Committee to consider the benefits that are sure to result from increased investments in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund and support HB 3366. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

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