



March 15, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Re: Support for HB 3366 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

Greetings Chair Helm and members of the committee.

I serve as the PNW Policy Manager for the American Farmland Trust. AFT's mission is to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. I write in support of HB 3366 to provide funding for OAHP.

Our Farms Under Threat research shows that, between 2001 and 2016, Oregon lost 65,800 acres to urban and low-density residential development. While the statewide planning system has put Oregon at the top in the nation for farmland protection through land use policy, the state still stands to lose another 109,100 acres by 2040 if these development trends persist. Important farmland is falling through the cracks. OAHP will help protect it.

What's more, this funding will fully staff OAHP, offering even deeper benefits for farmers. The full scope of the program can be realized by supporting conservation management plans, succession planning, and technical assistance.

You've heard from many others on the benefits of this program, so I'll keep it short. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

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