

Submitter: Dean Moberg

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: SB5539

Dear State Senators and Representatives,

I am a director on the board of the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and also serve on the board of the Cedar Mill Farmers Market. However, I am writing today on my behalf alone and not on behalf of those boards. I also wrote two chapters in the recently published *Soils of Oregon* (Springer, 2022) - chapters about how the soils of Oregon relate to working lands, production systems, conservation, and land use. Prior to recently retiring from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, I worked with farmers, ranchers, and foresters across Oregon for over 25 years.

I support SB 5539 - OWEB has consistently helped the managers of working lands to voluntarily and significantly conserve natural resources, including water, soil, and habitat. OWEB understands farmers, ranchers, and foresters and helps them produce food and fiber for the world while also conserving the resources that allow that production to continue into the future.

However, I strongly urge you to add funding to SB 5539 to support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), including \$10 million in grants and \$800,000 for administration. OAHP funding allows OWEB to procure federal matching funds for conservation and agricultural easements that will benefit rural communities, reduce carbon emissions, and keep working lands in production for future generations.

Thank you for your service to Oregon and for considering this request.

Dean Moberg