



# Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

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Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for OWEB POPs 215 and 115 – Full Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program**

Co-Chairs Dembrow, Pham, and Members of the Committee,

Clackamas SWCD works with landowners to protect and steward private working and natural lands through education, technical assistance, project management and on-the-ground implementation of conservation practices. Working farms and forests continue to play vital roles in environmental and economic resilience for Clackamas County, even in the face of a changing climate, ongoing development pressures, and other ecological disruptions.

Clackamas SWCD strongly supports full funding of Policy Option Packages 215 and 115 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Requested Budget which would fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). OAHP helps farmers and ranchers protect their land from fragmentation and development, while keeping it in production and benefiting local economies and communities. POPs 215 and 115 include \$10 million in grants and \$800,000 in administration funding requested by OWEB for the 2023-2025 biennium and would continue critical investment in Oregon's working lands.

Farmers in Clackamas County continue to face pressures that threaten agricultural viability such as development, challenges with farm succession planning, non-farm uses on farmland, and access to affordable farmland. OAHP provides resources and tools that can protect working lands from these threats and helps leverage federal dollars that are practically unattainable without state match funding that this program provides.

We urge the committee to fully fund OAHP through POPs 215 and 115 to maintain the strong state investment in working lands protection initiated last session. This investment will bolster farmland protection efforts, provide resources to help transition land to the next generation of farmers, and equip Oregon with resources to leverage federal investment in Oregon farmland.

Christopher Lapp  
District Manager