



April 20, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: Support HB 3366 - \$10.8 million for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (POP 215 and 115)

Greetings Co-chairs Dembrow and Pham and members of the committee,

The mission of American Farmland Trust is to save the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. We support the \$10.8 million of funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program in POPs 215 and 115. This funding has been requested through HB 3366, which received unanimous support from the House Agriculture Committee and is currently before the Way and Means Committee.

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.

In fact, the first \$5 million the Legislature invested last year has already been used to protect farmland across Oregon, leveraging an additional \$6.7 million in federal match. If OAHP does not receive continuous funding, Oregon will leave significant federal resources to protect farmland on the table.

In addition to protection of farmland, OAHP also supports long-term agricultural viability by funding conservation management plans, technical assistance, and succession planning.

Please keep OAHP funded and build on the success of this past year.

Sincerely,

Dani Madrone

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