



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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February 5, 2024

RE: HB 4060

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 11,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA appreciates the opportunity to voice our support for HB 4060, a bill to fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) at \$10.8 million. This important source of funding can jump start innovative projects to help farmers conserve important wildlife habitat, grow rural economies, and protect working agricultural lands across Oregon. This state funding is also used to leverage important federal conservation programs like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, protecting the wetlands and waterfowl that all Oregonians appreciate and enjoy.

Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that Oregon lost 340,000 acres of farm and ranch land from 2012-2017 and, according to American Farmland Trust, we could lose an additional 109,000 acres by 2040. Conservation easements and wildlife habitat projects like those funded under OAHP can help slow this trend and support new diverse family farmers entering this important industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to express OHA's support for the OAHP and HB 4060.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director