

Submitter: Rachael DeBuse

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB4060

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

My name is Rachael DeBuse and I farm on the urban growth boundary at the northern edge of Eugene, not far from the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. I am writing to express my support of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and HB 4060. The conservation management plan and conservation easement portions of the program give me hope that our state will be prioritizing investment in Oregon's community food systems and agricultural and habitat lands.

I am personally invested in this topic because my family and others farm on a Century Farm that abuts the UGB of Eugene. We are hoping to create a transition plan for the land, and in doing so prioritize affordability for new farmers on the land, as well as protections for these precious farm soils into perpetuity (or as close to that as we can get!). Equally valuable to protect are the habitat for plants and animal species that the slough system (adjacent to the Willamette River) around the fields provides.

There are not yet enough tools to keep enough of Oregon's farmland in production and to help farmer's buy the land they steward. Your support of this program would help in creation of conservation management plans to better keep farm ecosystems functioning and keep out ag land viable for future generations.

Thanks to all who have prioritized this bill.

Sincerely,
Rachael DeBuse
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