



January 17, 2025

To: House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee  
From: Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network

**RE: Supporting HB 3131 funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to express our strong support for HB 3131 and its request for funding for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). OAHP protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values through four grant programs including conservation easements and conservation management plan grants.

OAHP works with farmers on a voluntary basis to maintain and improve farm production while preserving ag land and conserving natural habitat. It's an incredibly valuable program, protecting farms and ranches in Oregon and providing technical assistance and financial incentives for agricultural conservation practices.

Farmland preservation is an important climate solution reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing opportunities for carbon sequestration. When agricultural land is developed and when it is lost, the ability to harness its carbon sinks is also lost forever. And the funding and technical assistance provided by OAHP helps farmers adopt climate-friendly practices and be more resilient to climate change.

The farmers and ranchers we work with are interested in implementing or already implementing conservation practices like riparian planting and cover cropping, and they want to do more, but they need the financial support provided by OAHP's Conservation Management Plan Grants.

We urge you to provide funding for OAHP to support Oregon's agricultural community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Megan Kemple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Megan Kemple, Executive Director,  
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network