

Submitter: John Mills

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3131

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

From: John Mills, Parkdale, Oregon

RE: Supporting HB 3131 and \$17.3 Million in funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2025-2027 Budget

OAHP helps Oregon leverage a remarkable 2:1 federal match through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

After years of unwavering faith in the strength of their own hard work and resourcefulness, we have watched good friends and young neighbors forced to give up everything that their parents and grandparents built. It's crushing. This might have prevented the loss of their orchards to anonymous investors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.