



January 21, 2025

Attention: Co-Chairs Rep. Helm and Rep. Owens  
Vice Chair McDonald and Committee Members  
House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee

**RE: HB 3131 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Funding**

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District is a local government that serves all of the people in Clackamas County, urban and rural, in providing conservation technical services, access to funding, and educational workshops. Part of that mission includes protecting our agricultural working lands for the future.

HB 3131 is an important bill to provide that protection and we urge your support. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) allows Oregon to leverage federal funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), protecting working lands in Oregon. The long-term protection afforded by the state and federal laws allows farmers to maintain and improve farm production while preserving agricultural land and conserving natural habitat.

Conservation management plans are another part of the OAHP program. They provide for technical assistance from conservation districts and help farmers adopt climate-friendly practices. The OAHP program also provides farmers with education to assist the next generation in succession, assuring land protection while keeping it in production.

The Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC) has recommended funding for OAHP as an important part of the Natural and Working Lands climate mitigation.

Thank you for your support!

CLACKAMAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Advocacy Committee

Jan Lee, Committee Chair

