



January 21, 2025

House Agriculture, Land Use, natural Resources, and Water Committee
ATTN: Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR

RE: Funding for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

Organically Grown Company, known in the industry as OGC, began 45 years ago as a non-profit, grower's cooperative, selling fresh, organic produce & specialty crops. By 1980 we had created an agricultural marketing cooperative, purchased a cooler, and built our first loading dock in Eugene, Oregon. As of today, we operate out of 7 facilities in the pacific northwest, employ over 250 produce professionals and serve eaters in six states. Along the way, OGC became an S-class corporation in 1999, and in 2008 an employee stock ownership program (ESOP) took effect. In 2018, OGC became proudly owned by the first-of-its-kind, Sustainable Food and Agriculture Perpetual Purpose Trust (SFAPPT), an ownership model that allows us to remain independent and true to our mission.

Throughout our journey we have remained dedicated to not only helping organic farmers get their products to consumers, but also in leading policy/advocacy action on behalf of stakeholders, including our farmers who are too busy on their farms to meet with legislators. In our last stakeholder survey, farmland preservation and access to land ranked as the second highest policy priority, falling only behind the top-ranked priority of farmworker health & wellness.

In support of our stakeholders and to keep Oregon's agricultural sector strong into the future, we write to you today to share our strong support for HB 3131 and its \$17.3 million in funding the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session. 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.

We urge you to support HB 3131.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Dill
Director of Advocacy & Sustainability

SUPPORT THE OAHP

*Allows farmers to realize some of the equity in their land without selling.

*Works with farmers to maintain and improve farm production while preserving ag land and conserving natural habitat.

*Technical assistance helps farmers adapt to climate change and adopt climate-friendly & organic practices.

*Programs help farmers with succession planning, keeping ag land in production.

