

Submitter: Jack Gray

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: ORGANIZATION/NAME

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

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

I write to you today to share my 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.

My wife and I have retired from active farming but now we have take on the serious work of figuring out what comes next for our farm. We would very much like to ensure that our land continues as a working farm on into the future. The programs that OAHP offers greatly expands that possibility. We can consider a conservation easement to help pay for our retirement and allow resource strapped new farmers to take it over. The various technical assistance programs can also help new farmers be more productive while also teaching them how to be resilient in an ever changing world and thus successful farmers.

This bill has strong bipartisan support for a reason. Please give it your support.

Thank you,  
Jack Gray