

Submitter: Nicole Ruggiero

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3131

January 21, 2025

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

From: Nicole Ruggiero

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

I write to you as a concerned citizen of Oregon, specifically Washington County, where I have been witnessing the loss of our farmland, the closing of farm businesses, and the threat to our rural communities at break-neck speed. We are urbanizing and paving over some of the best soils in the world. These farms and farmers need another option. A stable and well-funded Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program can help them keep working lands in production, adapt to climate change, and pass the farms on to the next generation. OAHP has been well received and brings matching dollars to federal programs. Please support HB 3131 and the \$17.3 million in funding for OAHP.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ruggiero
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