



1/23/2025

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

**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:

Greenbelt Land Trust is a regional conservation organization with a mission of conserving the lands and waters of the Willamette Valley for a more resilient future. **I am writing to share our organization's strong support HB 3131 and its \$17.3 million in funding the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session.**

Across the country, 27 other states operate state matching programs for working lands conservation, unlocking federal. We are leaving millions of dollars on the table every year that we do not have a state match for working lands conservation.

OAHP includes four grant programs: working land conservation easements, conservation management plans, support for intergenerational farm transfer, and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers. In a recent survey, the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) found at least 25 potential working lands conservation projects in the pipeline for the 2025-2027 biennium that would need \$17.3M in state investments - these projects would protect over 38,000 acres of working lands and leverage \$32.5M in federal funds!

I am proud to be part of the broad, bi-partisan support behind the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, unlocking access to farmland, leveraging federal dollars, conserving natural resources on working lands, and keeping farm and ranch land in production while supporting rural economies. **And it's a bipartisan win for Oregon's climate efforts.**

Thank you,

Jessica McDonald | Executive Director  
Greenbelt Land Trust  
jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org