



January 23, 2025

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

From: Oregon Seed Council

**RE: Support for 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:

On behalf of the Oregon Seed Council (OSC), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 3131.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that advocates for seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry.

I am writing in support of 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.

This program, created in 2017, was developed with agricultural and conservation groups with a primary goal of preventing farmland fragmentation.

OAHP provides a tool for farmers to realize some of the equity in their land without being forced to sell portions of it to navigate succession planning.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this important program.

Megan Chuinard  
Executive Director  
Oregon Seed Council