



January 24, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, Northeast
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: **Support for HB 2166**, Economic Competitiveness of Oregon Agriculture

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

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2166. As representatives of Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and foresters, we are deeply committed to the long-term health and viability of the state's agricultural industry and the broader natural resources sector. We commend the Legislature for taking this essential step toward a better collective understanding the complex challenges facing Oregon's agricultural producers.

Over recent years, Oregon's agricultural sector has faced mounting pressures of economic consequence, including drought, severe weather events, labor shortages, inflation, public health-related supply chain disruptions, and increased labor costs and taxes due to the broad impacts of regulations and legislation. This convergence of challenges has placed significant strain on one of Oregon's most vital economic sectors. To support effective policy decisions, it is essential that the Legislature have a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the economic burdens and outlook for Oregon agriculture.

We strongly support a robust and comprehensive analysis of Oregon's agricultural sector, encompassing the needs of more than 220 unique commodities. This analysis must consider the broader context of weather-related impacts, labor challenges, market conditions, and regulatory pressures—many of which may not be faced by growers of similar commodities in other states. Such an effort will provide critical insights into the

unique needs and priorities of Oregon's agricultural industry, helping to inform future legislative actions and funding decisions to sustain this essential sector.

Oregon's growers take immense pride in caring for their land, animals, and communities. By supporting HB 2166, the Legislature will take an essential first step in safeguarding the future of agriculture in our state. We appreciate the opportunity to advocate for this important bill and look forward to supporting it through adoption, implementation, and the resulting analysis.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for your ongoing commitment to supporting Oregon's agricultural industry.