

Submitter: Andrea Malmberg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3131

Andrea Malmberg
Union, Oregon
1/24/25

House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), HB 3131

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

I'm writing as a livestock producer and land steward from Union, Oregon, to express my strong support for HB 3131 and its funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). This program is crucial for protecting Oregon's working lands and supporting agricultural producers in implementing conservation practices that enhance both productivity and ecosystem health.

The OAHP's four grant programs—working land conservation easements, conservation management plans, technical assistance, and intergenerational farm transfer support—are vital in ensuring Oregon's farmland remains viable, productive, and resilient. Programs like these allow farmers and ranchers to adopt practices that improve soil health, promote carbon sequestration, and preserve biodiversity while safeguarding their operations' economic viability.

On the land I steward, I have witnessed the power of regenerative practices, including integrating livestock to repair degraded grasslands. These practices improve soil fertility, increase water retention, thereby decreasing the need for irrigation, and foster thriving environments, benefiting agricultural operations and the surrounding community. However, implementing these practices can require significant resources and planning, which is why the Conservation Management Plan Grants and technical assistance provided by OAHP are so critical.

Farmers and ranchers across Oregon want to do more to adopt soil health practices and other climate-smart agricultural techniques. Still, financial and technical support is often the key to making these efforts successful. OAHP helps producers implement

these practices and ensures they are aligned with long-term conservation goals.

Additionally, OAHP's support for intergenerational farm transfer is essential for addressing the challenges of an aging agricultural population and ensuring that working lands remain in the hands of those who will responsibly steward them for future generations.

I urge you to fully fund OAHP and advance HB 3131 to secure the future of Oregon's agricultural lands and the communities that depend on them. This program is vital to Oregon's economy, food systems, and environment.

Thank you for considering and supporting programs upholding Oregon's agricultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Andrea Malmberg, Bunchgrass Land & Livestock
Livestock Producer and Land Steward
Union, OR