



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467

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 in 2025-2027

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

I'm writing on behalf of Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District in support of HB 3131, and its request for funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). OAHP protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values through four grant programs including conservation easements and conservation management plan grants. It's a valuable program, protecting farms and ranches in Oregon and providing technical assistance and financial incentives for agricultural conservation practices.

Farmers/ranchers we work with are interested in implementing conservation practices like conservation management plans and conservation easements which require technical assistance. They want to do more, but they need the financial support provided by OAHP's Conservation Management Plan Grants.

Please support and do all you can to advance HB 3131.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Rhonda Black
Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
Reedsport, Oregon