

Submitter: Bogdan Caceu  
On Behalf Of: La Creole Orchards  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5039

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

I'm writing on behalf of La Creole Orchards, an olive orchard established in rural Polk County in 2008, to express strong support for \$5M in OWEB's budget for renewal of the Natural and Working Lands Fund. We support this appropriation as it provides incentives and technical support to help landowners and land managers adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands, including farms and ranches.

The same agricultural practices that mitigate climate change also help farms and ranches be more resilient to climate impacts, which makes business sense.

Among other things, this funding launched the State's grant program providing payment for agricultural practices with carbon sequestration, water quality and habitat benefits. Continuity of this funding is critical! When funding is available one year and not the next, interest in the programs decreases, and it becomes difficult for farmers to engage in the programs.

I urge your support for the inclusion of the \$5M investment of the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. Thank you!

Thank you,

Bogdan "Beau" Caceu  
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