

Submitter: Alex Satrum
On Behalf Of: Satrum Farms LLC
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 Satrum Farms to express strong support for \$5M in OWEB's budget for renewal of the Natural and Working Lands Fund, which provides incentives and technical support to help landowners, land managers, environmental justice communities, and Tribes adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands, including farms and ranches.

Farms and ranches are on the front lines of climate change. As dryland hazelnut farmers, we are especially aware of how changes in the climate are clearly starting to impact rainfall patterns, summer temperatures, and exacerbate extreme weather events that threaten our ability to effectively manage our trees and remain profitable. These challenges are not going away anytime soon – and in fact will get worse – so that's why it's so vital to preserve the work of the NWL Fund and continue supporting farmers and ranchers in helping them align their practices with science-backed strategies to make our working soils as resilient as possible. The reality of modern agriculture is that there are many, many farmers who fully understand that they could be doing better for their soils and agroecosystems, but they lack the technical guidance and/or financial assistance to execute those changes. This fund directly helps bridge that gap.

We urge your support for the inclusion of the \$5M investment of the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. This funding isn't about greenwashing or feeling good about ourselves – it's about responding to the clear threats to our way of life here in rural Oregon, standing by our values, and fostering responsibility to our land and future generations.

Thank you for your time and work on this issue,

Alex Satrum
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