

Submitter: Greg Macpherson  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5039

RE: H.B. 5039, Support for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and OWEB  
2025-2027 Budget

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I support the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) 2025-2027 budget, and more particularly the inclusion of \$17.3 million in funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). This funding enables Oregon to leverage a 2 to 1 federal match through programs including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

Along with two siblings I own and operate a farm in Linn County that has been in my family for over a century. I continue that connection to the land by growing hazelnuts on a portion with the remainder of the ground dedicated to grass seed farmed by a cousin. OAHP plays an important role in maintaining Oregon's agricultural base. Other industries come and go, while farming remains as one of Oregon's leading economic sectors. And unlike other sectors, agriculture continues to be dominated by multigenerational family businesses. If this structure is not nurtured by programs such as OAHP it will be lost and the culture of Oregon will be poorer.

Thank you,  
Greg Macpherson  
President, Bannockburn Farms, Inc.