

Submitter: Dean Moberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5039

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

I write to share my strong support for \$17.3 million in funding OAHP in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session. OAHP helps Oregon leverage a remarkable 2:1 federal match through programs including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

I have worked in agriculture for 50 years, as a farm worker milking cows, driving tractors, and harvesting vegetables; as a high school agriculture teacher; as a conservationist on the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; as co-author of The Soils of Oregon reference book; as an elected director of a soil and water conservation district; and as the owner of a small agricultural consulting firm specializing in the improvement of soil on Oregon farms. Throughout my career, I have met a wide range of farmers with different enterprises, goals, philosophies, and resources. One commonality I have seen among farmers is the desire to protect and improve the natural resources on their land. But, to achieve this common goal, farmers need a little help from the rest of us. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program will provide that help in the form of technical and financial assistance, administered via voluntary programs. Funding OAHP is critically important for the future of Oregon's natural resources and the farmers and ranchers who manage those lands. Please ensure that OAHP is funded in HB3131.

Thank you for the chance to comment, and thank you for your service to Oregon.

Dean P. Moberg
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