



Feb. 25, 2025

Sen. Lew Frederick
Rep. Emerson Levy
Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Ways and Means
Oregon Legislature
Salem, OR

Re: **Support** HB 5039, Monies for the Natural and Working Lands Fund

Dear Sen. Frederick, Rep. Levy and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Coast Alliance (ORCA) is an Oregon nonprofit working to protect coastal natural resources and work with residents to enhance community livability.

ORCA supports HB 5039 concerning the budget of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, specifically the allocation of \$5 million to the Natural and Working Lands Fund. This program provides incentives for landowners and others to adopt natural climate solutions on farms and forests, wetlands and estuaries. As a coastally-focused organization, ORCA is particularly concerned that this allocation succeed, as the coast is literally on the frontline of climate change.

Assisting landowners in implementing natural solutions to climate change in the coastal region is essential if we are to maintain communities, and important ecological habitats, into a climate-changed future. Sea level rise will affect our estuaries, wetlands and farmlands tremendously, and increasingly, as the years pass; and the more we can prepare landowners and communities for those changes and meeting them with ecological integrity, the better.

Please support granting \$5 million to the Natural and Working Lands Fund.

Thank you,
Cameron La Follette, Executive Director

