



OREGON
FARM
BUREAU

Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5039 and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's 2025-2027 budget, specifically the \$17.3 million needed to fully fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP).

OFB supports the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) which helps Oregon leverage a remarkable 2:1 federal match through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is made up of four grant programs including working land conservation easements, conservation management plans, support for intergenerational farm transfer, and technical assistance.

The OAHP, which is a voluntary program, provides a tool for farmers to realize some of the equity in their land without being forced to sell portions of it, making OAHP an invaluable resource to navigate succession planning.

We appreciate the legislature's support.

Thank you.



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