



Senator Chris Edwards, Co Chair
Representative Ben Unger, Co Chair

Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources

The Oregon Association of Conservative Districts (OACD) is testifying in support of the proposed 2013-2015 biennial budget for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Over the last eighteen months ODA has carefully expended and accounted for appropriated funds for purposes mandated by the legislature. OACD is confident the department will continue to do so in the next biennium.

In particular OACD is gratified to see ODA's continued strong support of agricultural water quality and quantity efforts. The Budget Enhancement Policy Option Package 420 which provides for expertise in surface and ground water and management is vital to the success of agriculture producers. The success of agriculture producers directly effects their desire and ability to address agriculture water quality issues.

Budget Continuation Policy Option Package 325 which further supports the efforts to document the effectiveness of past, present, and future agriculture water quality efforts is critical if we are to achieve water quality goals and maintain the ability of producers to produce in the most flexible and regulation free situations.

The continuing economic climate in the state's fiscal future unfortunately requires the department to make reductions in its programs. While OACD certainly supports the need to address weed issues it also supports the department's difficult decisions to make reductions, not across the board, thereby reducing the effectiveness of all programs, but by making the hard decisions to sacrifice one program for the betterment of many others. It is hoped that conditions change in the future and allow the department to restore the programs that have been reduced or eliminated.