Date: March 9, 2015
To: Way & Means for Natural Resources Committee
From: Clair Klock – Farmer and Resource Conservationist - Corbett, OR

Committee members
I am Clair Klock – a Farmer Corbett, OR in the Columbia Gorge. I have farmed full and part-time for the last 35 years. I hold Oregon Department of Agriculture certification as a private pesticide applicator and consultant. I have and continue to use restricted chemicals in my farming operation as needed. My wife and I owe 27 acres which is mostly forest land. I have been employed as a Conservation Specialist with soil and water conservation districts. I have used the OWEB small grants program to assist landowner in improve both water quality and wildlife habitat.

A few points I would like to emphasize.

1. I would urge your support for full funding of the small grants as well as the large farm and land acquisition programs for habitat and watershed health values.
2. The projects that are funded by OWEB assist in mitigating the damage that agriculture and forestry activities have on both upland and aquatic systems. Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry are now in the process of strengthening their riparian rules to better assist in maintaining or improving water quality.
3. One of the first OWEB conferences I went to had the theme "From Ridgetop to Ridgetop" They continue that some 30 years later.
4. Of particular interest to me is the effort to establish conservation easements on farms and forest. My wife and I have tried to give a conservation easement to our property for a riparian buffer, working farm and forest land. We have been turned down because it is not a priority area for the local land trust or soil and water conservation district. Without these easements working farm and forest land will develop into smaller and smaller parcel unsuited for either use.
5. And last but not least. I strong oppose raiding the OWEB budget for $2 million for the Sage Grouse match. I do support some contribution, but this some is way off the mark.

Thank you for your attention