

I am the North Coast Basin chairman for the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. OACD put up a committee to study this issue, we had several telephone meetings discussing the Agriculture Heritage Program. The committee decided that the program was needed in Oregon due to the aging of the farm owner population. We heard that about two thirds of the state's farmland will change ownership in the coming twenty years. It is going to be a major challenge to keep this resource in agricultural production. The Agricultural Heritage Program will provide a tool kit to help farmers make their transition into retirement or to a role that is not as demanding as daily farm decision making. I hope your committee will take a favorable view of this bill. Agriculture needs a well charted path of succession that will keep farmland productive.

Kind Regards

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