

Chair Clem and all Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

There is a issue that is causing me a lot of concern, because of the fact the average age of Farmers and Ranchers in Oregon is 60+ years, it is quite possible that as much as 2/3 of all the family farm and ranch land in Oregon over the next 20 years will change hands.

Locally owned farms and ranches, like locally owned businesses, tend to be involved in their communities, supporting of local programs like 4-H, and nimble on changing economic factors then if they are owned by out of state by out of state businesses, corporations, or foreign investors. And, of course, the average working owner of these farms and ranches is way to busy to worry about estate planning.

This bill would also provide access to state and local funds to offset some of the costs of transferring and providing unbiased information for owners.

Having 2/3 of Oregon's resources lands pass out of local ownership, would be a horrible outcome to the future of our state, with AG continuing to bring in Billions in sales of the products produced here.

I encourage the Committee to move this Bill forward to keep Oregon Agriculture Strong and Resilient into this Century.

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