



OREGON STATE GRANGE

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Representative Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3249

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members,

I'm writing to testify in support of HB 3249, known as the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Since 1873 the Oregon State Grange has worked to support rural communities and economies. The delegates to our annual State Convention have over the years adopted long-standing general policies in support of conservation of water resources, protection and preservation of agricultural land and the right to farm. In addition, we have concerns about the impact of estate taxes on the continuity of family farms across generations, especially as the average age of farmers is steadily increasing. We believe the OAHP will be a valuable tool that, with minimal impact on Oregon's general fund, will be able to leverage funding from private and Federal resources to address these important issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 3249.

Mark Noah
Legislative Director for the Oregon State Grange