

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
RE: HB 3249

Chair Clem and Committee Members:

Thank you for your attention to HB 3249. I urge you to forward it with a “do pass” recommendation because it gives Oregon an important tool for conserving agricultural land, and for conserving the natural resources that exist on and around those lands. By fostering voluntary conservation of agricultural and natural resource lands, Oregon can slow the loss of this critical land base, and add a valuable tool for bolstering the viability of Oregon’s farms and ranches.

My siblings and I are fourth generation ranch owners in Curry County, and several of us have participated for years in conservation efforts. Two of us are also on the board of our local land trust, and we – like many ranchers and farmers in Oregon – are seeking ways to effectively transition our agricultural land to the next generation. HB 3249 is a key step in making such transitions possible, which help those in the agricultural world bridge the generational transfers, and help Oregonians retain critical agricultural and natural resource lands.

Our area in northern Curry County is a viable agricultural area, and still has functioning and important natural resources. Both are economic engines for our local area; both are well worth conserving. I would very much appreciate your “yes” vote for HB 3249.

Thank you!  
Mary Wahl