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**The Oregon Cattlemen's Association Supports Full funding of
ODA's Strategic Implementation Area POP #303**

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express the Oregon Cattlemen's Association's support for the full funding of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Policy Option Package #303. ODA's Strategic Implementation Area program funds a basin-by-basin approach to assessing compliance with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association fully supports funding for ODA's SIA program because it contributes to stakeholder's understanding and compliance with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act.

ODA added SIAs to their overall water quality program in 2013. The SIAs include a pre-evaluation, outreach, technical assistance, on-the-ground projects, enforcement if necessary, and a post-evaluation. ODA's SIA POP #303 would provide a path for assessing agricultural water quality in the basins covered by the program. However, additional funding for SIAs is necessary for the scale of work needed to cover key basins moving forward.

ODA has requested \$1.7 million to expand on their existing work. The Governor's recommended budget only provided \$463,609 for this program. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association strongly supports funding the full agency request of \$1.7 million. Water quality is an essential priority for ranch and farm owners throughout the state. The funding of this program is critical for the scale of work required to ensure the state's agricultural water quality goals.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association's represents members of agricultural communities and private property owners. We strongly encourage your support of the POP #303 in the funding for the full agency request of \$1.7 million.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oregon Cattlemen's Association