



**PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2979**

### **FUNDING FOR TIDEGATE REPLACEMENT**

Our coalition urges you to support funding for HB 2979. This bill provides a small amount of state funding to Associated Oregon Counties to contract with appropriate third-parties who can assist landowners in navigating the regulatory challenges related to tide gate maintenance and replacement. Our bill reflects a collaborative effort amongst farmers, ranchers, conservation districts and the counties.

- **HB 2979 will address technical assistance needs for tide gate owners.** Over the past few years, it has become clear to agricultural and conservation organizations, watershed councils, landowners, and state and federal agencies that additional resources are necessary in order to accommodate the current and future workload associated with the potential repair or replacement of over one thousand tide gates along the Oregon Coast and lower Columbia River. Technical assistance has been identified by the Oregon Tide Gate Partnership as an issue that needs to be immediately addressed.
- **HB 2979 will accelerate regulatory approval for tide gate projects.** Funding technical assistance would help tide gate owners navigate through federal, state, and local government permitting processes and cost-share funding. As a result, more tide gates will be repaired or replaced, which will support local economies by protecting developed lands and improving fish habitat.
- **HB 2979 addresses a critical need.** Maintaining tide gates on private lands can be a difficult challenge for family farms and ranches on Oregon's Coast. The cost for replacement of a tide gate can be quite high, even for smaller and particularly, older versions. The regulatory framework is complex, making the smaller tidegates a larger percentage of a landowners total cost for maintenance, repair and compliance.

We urge you to support HB 2979.