



Orchard View, Inc.
P.O. Box 1398
The Dalles, OR 97058

Date: March 25, 2019

To: Oregon State Legislature, House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
From: Ken Bailey
Re: HB 2729 funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Post, and members of the Committee,

As a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (Commission), **I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2729.** I have been impressed by the diversity and knowledge of the Commission members and how well we have all worked together to develop the Commission rules and agree with the need to preserve working agricultural lands and the natural resource values of those lands.

I am a member of a family farm that has been in our family for nearly 100 years and over the last 50 years the family has been working on succession planning. I am part of the third generation operating our farm and the farm operations are now in the hands of the fourth generation. Our family has strongly supported the need for succession planning and the preservation of our farm lands in order to have a successful farm business that will continue for generations. The tools provided by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program will help many Oregon farms continue into the future and provide many benefits to the citizens of Oregon.

Funding the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) at \$10M for the 2019-2021 biennium will provide a variety of voluntary tools to farmers and ranchers who want to protect their working lands for future generations of Oregonians.

Legislation authorizing the creation of the OAHP was signed into law by Governor Brown in September of 2017 after receiving strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. I was recommended by the Oregon State Board of agriculture and approved by OWEB's Board to represent agricultural interests on the Commission. Collectively, commissioners represent a diverse body of leaders from the agriculture and natural resource sectors in Oregon.

Since my appointment, I have spent hundreds of hours developing administrative rules for OAHP. I am confident that these rules provide a clear and effective structure to provide public benefits to rural communities and the environment, thus

accomplishing the Legislature's objectives. A funded OAHP will provide grants to preserve working lands that provide exceptional natural resources values, promote succession planning, and help landowner applicants tap into matching federal funds that Oregon continues to leave on the table without a state-level funding program.

It is truly urgent that the Legislature appropriate \$10M this session to get OAHP up and running. Continued pressure on our State's productive agricultural land threatens to fragment working lands and leave us with a patchwork of low-density, unwise development. Oregon's family-owned farms and ranches face a critical turnover period in the coming years. By funding the OAHP, the Legislature can help stem the tide of land loss, protect the State's agricultural heritage, and secure natural resources co-benefits that align with state priorities.

I urge you to support HB 2729's \$10 million funding request to *implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program*. I am available to answer any questions that you may have about OAHP.

Sincerely,

Ken Bailey

Ken Bailey
3900 Orchard Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
Kenba@orchardview.com
(541) 993-6556