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**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019

**To:** Oregon State Legislature, House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

**From:** Dr. Sam Angima

**Re:** HB 2729 Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

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

As a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (Commission), I am writing to express my very strong support for HB 2729. I worked closely with the other OAHP commissioners over the past year, and with input received from the public, developed governing policies (now adopted by OWEB) that will enhance and protect our agricultural lands now and into the future.

Legislation authorizing the creation of the OAHP received strong bipartisan support in the house and senate and was signed into law by Governor Brown in September of 2017. Oregon State University (OSU) Extension recommended my name to the commission and was approved by OWEB's Board to represent OSU Extension. The 12 commissioners selected for OAHP represent a diverse body of leaders from the agriculture and natural resource sectors in Oregon.

Oregon State University Extension will play a big role in the success of OAHP initiatives. As you know, OSU is the go-to resource for the expertise and knowledge every Oregonian needs to live healthy lives, nurture our great state's ecosystems, and play a vital role in Oregon's vibrant communities. Our daily goals are to continuously engage the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources, and promote healthy families and individuals.

If funded by the legislature, OAHP will provide grants to preserve working lands that provide exceptional natural resources values, teach and educate landowners about succession planning, and help landowner applicants tap into matching federal funds that remain untapped to this day. We are confident that the approved administrative rules would provide a clear and effective structure to channel funds that will provide public benefits to Oregon communities and the environment, thus fulfilling the legislature's objectives of securing natural resources that align with state priorities.

I urge you to support HB 2729's \$10 million funding request to *implement* the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program for the 2019-2021 biennium. I am available to answer any questions that you may have about OAHP.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sam Angima  
Ass. Dean and Extension Program Leader  
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