

Hello House Ways and Means Committee;

I am a rancher and landowner in eastern Oregon and I urge you to fund the Oregon Ag Heritage Program. By enabling the creation of Conservation Easements the legislature can ensure that quality ranch and farm ground stays in production for generations to come. Land prices are inflating rapidly. We need to create a way that a lid is put on land prices so that young people can enter into and make a living from agriculture. The OAHF will help ensure that land can be transferred or sold for its productive value thereby maintaining the social fabric and healthy economies in our rural areas. Please fund the Oregon Ag Heritage Program.

Sincerely,  
Jack Southworth