A-Bill for an Act

Relating to agricultural tourism in rural communities.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “rural" means any area in this state that is outside:

(a) The acknowledged urban growth boundaries of all cities with a population greater than 50,000; and

(b) Any urbanized area contiguous to a city described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(2) The Oregon Tourism Commission shall establish and administer a grant program to promote, develop and sustain opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities.

(3) In implementing the grant program, the commission shall use the moneys distributed to it under section 2 of this 2023 Act:

(a) To fund grants to qualifying individuals or entities providing or seeking to provide agricultural tourism in rural communities in this state;

(b) To educate, train and support individuals or entities providing or seeking to provide opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities in this state; and

(c) To foster, develop and publicize opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities in this state.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules necessary to administer the grant program established under this section, including rules establishing:

(a) The forms, timelines and procedures for submitting a grant application;

(b) The eligibility requirements for receiving a grant; and

(c) The standard for determining the monetary amount to be awarded to a grant recipient.

(5) The dollar amount of a grant issued under this section to a recipient may not exceed $100,000.

(6) The commission may spend up to five percent of the moneys appropriated under sec-
tion 2 of this 2023 Act to cover administrative expenses associated with implementing this section.

SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $2,000,000 for distribution to the Oregon Tourism Commission for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.