



House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 13, 2023

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I am writing, on behalf of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, in strong support for HB 3366, which would provide full funding at \$10.8M for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). This program has enjoyed significant bipartisan support, and its purpose is to protect farm and ranch land, keep it in production, and enhance its natural resource values.

Our organization is especially interested in seeing the OAHP Conservation Management Plan Grants funded. These grants compensate landowners for implementing conservation practices including those that improve soil health. Healthy soils can provide many benefits for farms and ranches, including:

- resilience to drought and other extreme weather events
- economic resilience
- improved water and nutrient-holding capacity, reduced erosion, enhanced plant health
- sequestered carbon, improved water quality, and increased biodiversity and habitat

The farmland protection provided by OAHP Working Land Easements also provides climate benefits. An acre of farmland produces 58-70 times fewer greenhouse gas emissions than an acre of urban land and provides opportunities for activities that sequester carbon. Protecting farmland while growing cities in a compact manner reduces 33 tons of GHG emission per acre per year when compared to sprawl development.

Please support and advance HB 3366.

Megan Kemple
Director of Policy Advocacy
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN)
541-342-1537 (home office) 541-225-8807 (cell)
megan@oregonclimateag.org