

Submitter: Scott Fogarty

On Behalf Of: Wild Rivers Land Trust

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB3366

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

My name is Scott Fogarty and I am the Executive Director for the Wild Rivers Land Trust -

I am writing today in support of HB 3366, a bipartisan bill that would fully fund the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). HB 3366 would help farmers and ranchers protect their land from fragmentation and development, while keeping it in production and benefiting local economies and communities. HB 3366 includes \$10 million in grants and \$800,000 in administration funding requested by OWEB for the 2023-2025 biennium.

Fully funding this bill will enable WRLT to work with local ranchers to preserve working lands on Oregon's dark coast and beyond. We are working closely with local communities and organizations to ensure that agriculture, especially on the southern Oregon coast where working lands remain an important part of the local economy, is preserved for additional generations to come; and not having those lands carved up into real estate developments.

HB 3366 will provide a sustainable source of state matching funds to protect our agricultural and ranch land across Oregon. In addition, the program provides funding for conservation management planning, technical assistance, and succession planning to support our farmers and ranchers. We encourage Chair Helm and the committee members to support this bill and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Scott Fogarty