

Submitter: Chris Fryefield

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural  
Resources

Measure: SB5539

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to support providing further funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. As a doctoral student at Oregon State University I am engaged in research on climate change mitigation and adaptation on private lands, and Oregon's working lands are a key piece of state conservation that must not be neglected. OAHP helps Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and foresters plan for the future of our rural lands, which includes elements like conservation easements and carbon sequestration. Without funding for OAHP too many of these private lands might be converted for development and pass out of the hands of family landowners. Not only is this problematic for environmental reasons, it also harms rural communities and undercuts our state economy. Supporting OAHP and providing state funding allows the program to access millions of dollars in Federal grants that are available for exactly these types of agricultural conservation programs. This is a relatively small state expenditure to address a significant set of environmental and economic issues that will affect all Oregonians in the coming decades. For these reasons I strongly support SB 5539 and the appropriation of additional funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Thank you very much,  
Chris B. Fryefield, JD MS