

Submitter: Jan Wallinder

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB5539

Co Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Phanh & Members of the Committee

We are writing in support of funding for OAHP to be restored to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) budget. This funding for OAHP is critical to the support of working farms and forests in Oregon. As local farmer/foresters in the Beavercreek area south of Oregon City we are very aware of being on the rural reserve/urban reserve line and the importance of preserving working farms for the future of agriculture and forestry in Oregon. We participate in several local farmers markets and experience firsthand the critical link between farmers and consumers to preserve access to local produce. The program design of OAHP of working easements, succession planning and conservation management is vital work to preserve working farms. Funding of OAHP is needed to continue the work and to leverage federal funds to further support efforts. We have been fortunate with the support of Oregon Agricultural Trust to put a conservation easement on our property to preserve the land for future generations of farmers and Oregonians. Full funding of OAHP will allow more farmers to preserve their land.

Jan Wallinder & Ron Webb  
Forest Edge Farm