



Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 20, 2023

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the Committee:

I am testifying on behalf of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, to urge you to fund OWEB's agency requested POPs 115 and 215 for \$10.8 million for OAHP grants. This funding request has broad support from the agriculture community. OAHP has enjoyed significant bipartisan support. 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 farming practices 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 fund OWEB's POPs 115 and 215 for \$10M in OAHP grants.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Megan Kemple  
Director of Policy Advocacy  
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN)