



April 21, 2023

Co-Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Pham and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC), based in Lyons, Oregon. The OOC was founded by organic trade leaders in 2004 to build unified support for organic advocacy. The OOC has brought together organic farmers, businesses, affiliated organizations, and other stakeholders, to provide direction and advocacy, and to support efforts that promote and grow organic trade and farming practices in Oregon.

I'm writing today to express support for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) POPS 215 and 115, which would provide \$10 million for grants and \$800,000 for program administration for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). There is great demand for this program that keeps farm and ranch land in production, supports rural businesses, and benefits rural communities.

There are significant costs to be certified organic and organic farmers, like many farmers across the state, need support with conservation management plans, succession planning, and working lands easements and covenants, as well as the technical assistance offered through the OAHP.

Last session's commitment of \$5 million to the OAHP leveraged an additional \$6.7 in federal matching funds for the state in NRCS's Agricultural Land Easements program. The current Farm Bill allocates \$450 million per year in federal match funding for agricultural easements. To maximize Oregon's ability to leverage current and future funds, we need to continue to provide a sustainable state match.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Wong".

Amy Wong

Board Chair - Oregon Organic Coalition