



January 17, 2025

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

From: Oregon Organic Coalition

RE: Supporting HB 3131 and \$17.3 Million in funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2025-2027 Budget

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to share our strong support for HB 3131 and its **\$17.3 million** in funding the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session. OAHP helps Oregon leverage a remarkable **2:1 federal match** through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

Formed in 2005, the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC), works to promote the growth of Oregon's organic industry and community. By bringing together farmers, businesses, and affiliated organizations, OOC provides leadership, advocacy, and support to expand the organic sector, while building resilient regional food systems.

The OOC has testified before the legislature many times about the potential for organic agriculture to bridge the rural/urban divide and build economic development. However, in order realize this potential, farmland must be preserved, and succession planning must be prioritized, which is why we have long supported the Oregon Ag Heritage Program.

As Oregon farmers and ranchers face extreme weather conditions as a result of climate change, the need for adaptive technical assistance is growing. This program, along with others, can help these producers and we urge your support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Wong".

Amy Wong

Oregon Organic Coalition - Coalition Director