

Submitter: Beau Caceu
On Behalf Of: La Creole Orchards
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Esteemed Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing to urge you to include the investment of \$5M for the Natural and Working Lands Fund in OWEB's budget, as included in the Governor's recommended budget.

The NWL Fund provides incentives and technical support to help landowners adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands, including farms and ranches. Continuity of this funding is critical. When funding is available one year and not the next, interest in programs decreases, and it becomes difficult for farmers to anticipate what will be available. The Fund is one-year old and is doing great work, but sustained support creates momentum that moves the work from a start-up phase to an established effort that can start reaping returns on the initial investment. The NWL Fund supports Oregon's land ethic, which does set Oregon apart from many other states. It is something we are all proud of, both native Oregonians and Oregonians by choice (I have been one since 2000 and have been managing an olive orchard since 2008).

I urge you to support the inclusion of the \$5M investment in the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget.

Thank you!

Beau Caceu