

Submitter: Erin Botanicals
On Behalf Of: Banyan Botanicals and Banyan Farm
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

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

This funding is a strategic investment in Oregon's future. The NWL Fund supports regenerative practices on farms, ranches, forests, and other working lands—practices that serve as powerful climate, water, and economic solutions.

Regenerative farming not only draws carbon from the atmosphere and stores it in the soil, but also enhances soil health, increases water retention, improves biodiversity, and boosts farm resilience in the face of climate-related disruptions like drought and wildfire.

The NWL Fund helps landowners, land managers, Tribes, and farmers access the tools, technical support, and financial incentives they need to implement these forward-looking practices. This includes Oregon's new grant program that rewards agricultural practices for their ecosystem service benefits—like carbon sequestration, water conservation, and soil restoration.

Farms and ranches are on the frontlines of climate change, and they are also a key part of the solution. By investing in regenerative agriculture, we're not only addressing the climate crisis—we're also strengthening rural economies, preserving water resources, and empowering communities to steward the land for generations to come.

Continuity of funding is critical. Inconsistent support undermines interest, trust, and the ability for land stewards and community organizations to plan long-term. A stable investment ensures momentum, innovation, and widespread adoption of practices that benefit all Oregonians.

As someone who cares deeply about Oregon's land, water, and future, I urge you to support the full \$5 million investment in the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's resilience.

Sincerely,
Erin Douglas

Director of Impact and New Business
Banyan Botanicals