

Submitter: Zoe Bradbury DeSurra  
On Behalf Of: Valley Flora Farm  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Zoë Bradbury DeSurra from Langlois, Oregon on the Southcoast. I am a farmer and 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, land managers, environmental justice communities, and Tribes adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands, including farms and ranches.

The NWL Fund invests in existing programs and projects within state agencies, including programs that existed in statute without funding. Among other things, this funding launched the State's new grant program providing payment for agricultural practices with ecosystem services benefits, including carbon sequestration. Farms and ranches are on the front lines of climate change, and the same agricultural practices that mitigate climate change help farms and ranches be more resilient to climate impacts.

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 and community organizations to anticipate what will be available and take best advantage of it. The current federal funding freeze has created chaos and uncertainty for farmers and businesses and has eroded - if not broken - my trust in government partnership. I urge you to be a steady partner to Oregon farmers and landowners, especially right now.

Not only can this funding support on-farm projects to help farmers like me level up our climate change mitigation practices, it also supports community-wide and landscape-scale work that benefits the common good. These are the kind of investments that ripple out and pay back long-term dividends to all Oregonians.

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

Thank you,  
Zoë Bradbury DeSurra