



Together. For Oregon's Land.

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Representative [First and Last]
Oregon State Capitol
[Street Address]
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (HB 3249)

Dear Representative [Last name]:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and the 19 organizations we represent, I want to **thank you for your leadership in sponsoring HB 3249, the "Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program."** Given the diverse and bipartisan enthusiasm it is generating, we look forward to working with you this session as HB 3249 makes its way through the legislative process.

The Oregon land trust community believes the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program fulfills a long-identified need for a conservation program to conserve Oregon's critical landscapes. From the Columbia River corridor to the rugged coast, land trusts work with local communities to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, preserve open lands, maintain working farms, and retain the social and economic values that make Oregon special.

Again, thank you for your attention on this critical piece of legislation. Passage of HB 3249 will provide an essential foundation and voluntary tools to maintain Oregon's working farms and ranches, and the diverse natural resource values they provide for all Oregonians. COLT and our members look forward to working with you to support conserving critical lands for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kelley Beamer
Executive Director, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Blue Mountains Conservancy
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust
Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust
Klamath Lake Land Trust
Lower Nehalem Community Trust
McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy
Oregon Rangeland Trust
Pacific Forest Trust
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Wetlands Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Wallowa Land Trust
Wild Rivers Land Trust