



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

RE: Support for Country Heritage Farm Extension and Funding for OAHP

Chair Evans-Peters, Co-Chair Contreras, members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I serve as the Executive Director of Oregon Agricultural Trust or "OAT". Our organization has applied for multiple OAHP grants since the program's inception, and we proudly advocate at the legislature for funding for this program.

Today we have a request before the Commission to extend the deadline for our project, Country Heritage Farms (225-7105-23848). This 304-acre farm exemplifies the goals of OAHP. It includes productive farmland as well as 62-acres of riparian and forest habitat. It is under threat from development, and the easement will support the transfer of the property to the next generation. The project has been delayed due to the succession planning process. We originally requested an extension of the project's deadline to March 31, 2028 to match our ACEP-ALE deadline, but we would gladly accept OWEB's proposed extension deadline to September 30, 2027. **We respectfully request the Commission's support for this extension.**

We so appreciate the time, commitment and thoughtfulness that each of you dedicates to this program. OAHP has been critical to addressing Oregon's conservation priorities and the need is growing constantly. We know of at least \$18,254,150 in projects ready to apply for future funding cycles, which could protect another 27,843 acres of farm and ranchland and bring nearly \$20 million in federal matching dollars to Oregon. Unfortunately, existing resources in the OAH Fund have been expended.

These projects are critical to ensuring that agricultural land is more affordable, protected and kept in production for future generations. OAHP funding should continue to be a priority investment in OWEB's budget, and I hope you'll join us in advocating for the renewal of these critical dollars in the 2027 Legislative Session.

Respectfully,

Nellie McAdams
Executive Director