



## **GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY LIAISON**

### **FULL OR PART-TIME**

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates at the intersection of agriculture, water, and energy. The Government and Community Liaison will join our growing team to build and maintain strong relationships with local, state, federal, tribal and community partners in support of irrigation modernization efforts. An ideal candidate would enjoy and excel at building relationships with a broad range of community members, work well in an interdisciplinary team, and be passionate about developing solutions that benefit both agriculture and the environment.

### **WHEN YOU WORK WITH US, HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND**

Our staff of over 40 strategy consultants, funding specialists, technical professionals, and public policy experts believe that everyone can win – farmers, rivers, and communities. We formed 15 years ago to successfully bring an innovative fish screen technology to market. This farmer-developed technology, now known as the Farmers Screen, helps to keep fish and debris in rivers and out of water supplies. Since that time, our work has expanded to include the Irrigation Modernization Program—an innovative program to help farmers and ranchers modernize all aspects of their water delivery systems. Staff work with water users, agencies, and organizations to design, finance, and implement large-scale solutions and technologies that improve water delivery systems, reduce operation and maintenance costs, and generate fish-friendly hydropower. Our headquarters in Hood River, Oregon, inspires staff in both their professional and personal lives. Hood River's abundant apple, pear, and cherry orchards and salmon-bearing streams provide daily context for our work. And Hood River's one-hour commute to Portland provides staff with easy access to a regional transportation hub, facilitating travel to and from our headquarters.

### **SO THAT'S US. NOW ABOUT THE WORK**

The Government and Community Liaison will work closely with the Executive Director and staff to implement FCA's vision, objectives, and strategy in support of irrigation modernization efforts across the Western United States. They will also build and maintain the relationships, particularly with state and federal agencies and elected officials, needed to effectively realize that vision. Further, they will work closely with agricultural water providers to facilitate modernization efforts, identifying opportunities and addressing challenges alongside FCA staff and contractors. On a given day, the Government and Community Liaison may tour a potential project with an irrigation district, review communications materials related to a recently completed project, and facilitate a call with a Congressional staff member.

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES**

- Implement FCA's vision, objectives, and strategy and associated policy agenda
- Build and maintain relationships with current and potential partners such as agricultural producers, irrigation district staff and board members, elected officials, agency staff, funding partners, and non-profit organizations

- Monitor relevant federal and state legislative and administrative proposed actions, identify opportunities for and threats to organizational objectives, and facilitate any responses
- Provide government relations support to FCA staff and contractors to facilitate irrigation modernization planning, development, funding, permitting, and/or implementation efforts with irrigation communities
- Partner with FCA's Communications team in developing communications materials related to irrigation modernization efforts
- Manage staff and contractors as necessary to implement FCA's government relations vision, objectives, and strategy and associated policy agenda
- Participate in strategic, programmatic, and district-level discussions regarding organizational and district-specific objectives
- Serve as FCA's liaison to relevant trade associations and/or advocacy organizations
- Coordinate with FCA's Executive Director and staff to identify, measure, and communicate government relations-related outcomes
- Occasional travel to/within Oregon, other western states, and Washington, DC

### **A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE**

- 5+ years of professional experience in public policy, campaigns, advocacy, or a relevant field
- Demonstrated success in building long-lasting relationships with community members across a broad range of interests
- Demonstrated success in building strong, bipartisan relationships with offices in the legislative and executive branches of government
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- The ability to work alone and as part of a cohesive team
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple complex projects and deadlines effectively
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office suite
- Ability to travel to/within Oregon, other western states, and Washington, DC

### **AN IDEAL CANDIDATE WOULD FURTHER HAVE**

- 2+ years of experience as state or federal legislative staff, public information officer, or community liaison for a government agency.
- Knowledge of and/or experience with state and federal rules and regulations related to permitting and implementing irrigation modernization strategies
- Knowledge of and/or experience with state and federal funding programs related to irrigation modernization efforts
- Demonstrated ability to craft effective communications materials

### **INTERESTED? SOME FINE PRINT ABOUT JOINING OUR TEAM**

We provide a competitive salary, vacation, health and dental insurance, and a retirement package. We also believe that happy staff deliver the best outcomes. As such, we provide flexibility for staff to spend time doing what they love. We have staff working remotely as part of our normal operations, and we are open to hiring team members who do not reside in Hood River. We will also look for this position to be in Hood River periodically to connect in person. We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity. All employment is based on qualifications,

merit, and business need; qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

**TO APPLY**

To apply for the position of FCA Government and Community Liaison, please submit an attached cover letter and resume to [info@fcasolutions.org](mailto:info@fcasolutions.org) with "FCA Government and Community Liaison " as the subject of the email. Please do not contact FCA staff directly about this position.

Applications should be addressed to:

Julie Davies O'Shea, Executive Director  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
102 State Street  
Hood River, OR 97031

Position is open until filled.