



**House Committee on the Judiciary**

**February 9, 2016**

**Oregon Farm Bureau Federation Supports HB 4066**

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is a voluntary, grassroots, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state's farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas. Farm Bureau's membership includes 7,000 families actively engaged in farming and ranching and 60,000 members statewide. On behalf of our thousands of farm and ranch families, we submit this testimony in support of HB 4066.

The agricultural industry will eventually be one of the largest consumers of drone technology, and as such OFB's members have an overwhelming interest in ensuring that the policy surrounding drones is cohesive with agricultural operations. The use of these drones will enable farmers to survey the condition of their fields with greater efficiency and at a reduced cost. Despite all of the beneficial uses that drones will bring, there is concern among our members that drone use will create unintended consequences.

We believe this bill allays some of the concerns that our members have, and is generally a step in the right direction. Specifically, with the Sections establishing rules governing public bodies' use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Invasion of privacy and the threat of Constitutional violations at the hand of public bodies using drones is a serious threat, not only our members, but also to the general public. This bill provides protections against the improper use of drones by government agencies by providing transparency in the use of government operated drones, and importantly upholds Constitutional protections against unreasonable searches by banning the use of drones by law enforcement to acquire information.

Section 12(3)(e) (created by the -3, -6, and -7 amendments) exempts owners and operators of critical infrastructure from the prohibition and penalties imposed on flying drones over those same facilities. Many of our producers' fields contain powerlines and water supply infrastructure that may fall under the definition of "critical infrastructure facilities," and it is imperative that they be exempt from the prohibition created by Section 12(2)(a).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony and if you have any questions please feel free to contact Jenny Dresler at [jenny@oregonfb.org](mailto:jenny@oregonfb.org) or 503-810-4174.