



## **OREGON FARM BUREAU TESTIMONY**

### **Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

**March 2, 2017**

### **SB 677**

Chair Dembow and Members of the Committee:

While the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) supports Oregon's growing cider industry, we have concerns about the breadth of activities authorized for cider businesses by SB 677. By way of background, OFB is Oregon's largest grassroots agriculture association, representing 7,000 farming and ranching families across the state. Our mission is to promote educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement for our members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry as a whole.

SB 677 would authorize cider businesses to make cider and engage in a large variety of business and tourism activities on the property. The statute nearly identically mirrors similar statutes that authorize winemaking and tourism activities on property zoned for exclusive farm use. At the time the winery statutes were enacted, OFB expressed concern about the breadth of the activities authorized under the statute, particularly those activities that do not appear to be directly related to or supportive of the agricultural use of the property. OFB has similar concerns about the breadth of activities authorized through SB 677.

While OFB supports cider making and related business activities occurring on the orchards that support the cider business, we are concerned this statute authorizes too many seemingly unrelated activities, such as bed and breakfasts. Additionally, the statute does not require the owner of the cider business to actually own the orchards from which it receives its apples. This could result in the development of a production facility and business center that is not actually part of the farm use on the property. We welcome the opportunity to speak to the cider industry about developing a program that is workable for them, but ensures consistency with the existing farm stand and agritourism statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. Please contact OFB if you have any questions.

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