



“Making Every Resource Count”

Oregon Wheat Growers League 115 SE 8th Street, Pendleton, OR 97801 (541) 276-7330 www.owgl.org

**Representative John Lively, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports**

RE: Yes on HB 3336

April 4, 2017

Chair Lively and Committee Members:

The Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) is a grassroots, not-for-profit nonpartisan trade association for Oregon’s wheat and barley growers, representing nearly 2,000 farms spanning about 800,000 acres. OWGL was founded in 1926 by growers in Eastern Oregon to collectively promote Oregon wheat worldwide. **We are proud to support HB 3336, which would expand access to paid family leave that is both accessible to all employees and affordable to small and family-owned businesses.**

Oregon wheat growers strive to support our employees and their families while remaining competitive in a global market that sets our prices. The rising costs of doing business are the greatest challenge we face in expanding employee benefits. HB 3336 would bring employers and employees together and expand employee benefits through new tax-free Family Leave Savings Accounts. These accounts would drive employees and employers to invest in wage replacement benefits for employees in times of need.

We want our employees to access these benefits, and HB 3336 makes this possible without jeopardizing our ability to compete and grow more jobs. As new mandates have made hiring and retaining employees a costlier proposition for employers, small employers in particular have struggled to compete for the best talent while staying competitive.

HB 3336 is an effective and collaborative approach to strengthening Oregon families and growing our economy. **We urge your YES vote on HB 3336.**