



## **TESTIMONY ON SB 334**

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**April 8, 2019**

Chair Fagan and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is writing to express our concerns about SB 334, which would require communities to expand their urban growth boundary (UGB) onto urban reserves for workforce housing or commercial uses. While we appreciate that the bill does not allow expansion onto high value farmland, we have concerns that this bill circumvents the existing process for UGB expansions and could have unintended consequences on neighboring farmland. While we understand and appreciate the need to create new incentives for workforce housing and new commercial uses, we believe these goals can be accomplished within our existing land use system and existing process for UGB expansion. Allowing expansion on a parcel-by-parcel basis could result in leapfrogging land that is currently in farm use, and create a situation where an existing farm outside the UGB is surrounded by non-farm uses. This could create significant conflict and is contrary to the state's land use policy of orderly development.

Please contact Mary Anne Cooper at [maryanne@oregonfb.org](mailto:maryanne@oregonfb.org) if you have any questions.