



TESTIMONY ON HB 2355

HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

April 9, 2019

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is writing to express our opposition to HB 2355 and the -1 amendments. HB 2355 would significantly reduce the acreage required to have a cider operation in an exclusive farm use zone. While OFB supports on farm vertical integration, it is critical to us that any integrated uses of farmland are ancillary to the primary farm use and do not subsume the farm use.

The cider statute was modeled off of the winery statute, and the legislature is proposing to add breweries to the list of allowed uses under this authority this session. One of the primary principles of this approval was that the uses would be allowed on a winery, cidery and brewery of sufficient farm size that the added tasting room, bed and breakfast, events and other uses would remain secondary to the farm use. Given the breadth of uses allowed under this authorization, reducing the acreage required to support a cidery risks having an operation that is a cidery first and a farm only as far as needed to support the tasting room, bed and breakfast and event authorization for the non-farm side of the operation. This would also have the effect of allowing a significantly larger number of these uses in farm zones, increasing the risk of conflict with neighboring farmers who may not like having an event venue and tasting room next door. OFB opposes this result, and urges you to leave the acreage requirements intact.

Please contact Mary Anne Cooper at maryanne@oregonfb.org if you have any questions.