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**House Committee on Business and Labor**  
Oregon Farm Bureau Testimony on HB 4096  
February 5, 2020

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 4096. By way of background, the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's largest agricultural trade association, representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families across the state. While we applaud this legislation for working to address accessibility to childcare in the state, we are concerned about the potential for unintended consequences stemming from the land use portions of HB 4096.

Oregon's exclusive farm use policy calls for the "preservation of a maximum amount of the limited supply of agricultural land" in order to maintain the agricultural economy of the state. *See* ORS 215.243. It has been well recognized that conflicting land uses in areas devoted to agricultural use can have a significant impact on neighboring farmers, and make it difficult to maintain viable farm operations. OFB believes that allowing childcare facilities to be developed on land zoned for exclusive farm use will result in significant impacts to nearby commercial farming operations and accepted farming practices. For example, farm operations require intensive irrigation management as well as pest and weed control. Moreover, cultivation and harvest often cause dust, loud noises, strong smells, and heavy equipment and machinery. All of these practices are incompatible with an adjacent daycare facility, and increase the odds that a farmer will be subject to complaints or litigation from an adjacent facility who is unaccustomed to having farm operations next door.

OFB opposes allowing new childcare facilities on lands zoned for exclusive farm use, and therefore requests that HB 4096 be amended to not allow for the construction of these facilities on EFU lands. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Contact:

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