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Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Farm Bureau Testimony on SB 1555
February 6, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1555. 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. As strong supporters of our land use planning system, OFB has concerns with unintended consequences of this bill and therefore urge you to not move it forward.

SB 1555 would allow a parsonage dwelling on exclusive farm use (EFU) land. Oregon's EFU 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 parsonages on EFU zoned land will result in significant impacts to nearby commercial farming operations and accepted farming practices.

Moreover, if a parsonage is needed, there is an existing path in law to locate one. A parsonage can be sited in a nonfarm dwelling or an applicant can seek an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 3. Thus, SB 1555 is not needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Contact:

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