



**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue**

**From: Rex Storm - Associated Oregon Loggers**  
**Jenny Dresler - Oregon Farm Bureau**  
**Tyler Ernst – Oregon Forest Industries Council**

**Date: February 12, 2020**

**Re: Testimony Regarding SB 1578 (Agriculture and Forestry Fuel Refund Program)**

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony regarding SB 1578 on behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Associated Oregon Loggers, and the Oregon Forest Industries Council.

As a reference, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's largest general agriculture association, representing nearly 6500 families actively engaged in farming and ranching. The Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) is the statewide trade association representing approximately 1,000 member companies engaged in the harvest and sustainable forest management of Oregon's 30 million acres of forestland. The Oregon Forest Industries Council represents over 50 of the state's largest private forestland owners and forest products manufacturers.

Our associations would like to express our appreciation to Senator Lee Beyer for considering the impacts that SB 1530 would have on Oregon's natural resources sector and rural communities through the introduction of SB 1578. This measure would create a refund program for fuels utilized for the production, management, and transportation of agricultural and forestry products.

Fuel is an increasingly significant cost driver for the family owned businesses that make up our sector. These markets are volatile and are often impacted by national and international factors that are outside of their control. These family businesses operate on tight margins and have difficulty passing on costs that are created as the result of increased taxes, fees, or other regulatory requirements.

With these concerns in mind, we strongly appreciate the refund program established in SB 1578 to offset some of the costs increases that are anticipated under the cap-and-trade program envisioned under SB 1530.

Thank you.