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House Committee on Housing

Oregon Farm Bureau Testimony in Support of HB 2160
February 9, 2021

February 8, 2021

Chair Fahey, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2160. 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 in the state, many of whom farm or ranch in Umatilla County or near the city of Pendleton.

In general, OFB supports the use of Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) as a means of dividing agriculture land from urban land, designating land within UGBs to provide space for all urban needs, such as housing, as well as managing the growth of a city in such a way that needs and services can be efficiently provided. However, any boundary expansion on land protected under Goal 3 must not impair the infrastructure needed to produce food and fiber for current and future generations.

OFB is supportive of adding the city of Pendleton to the list of cities seeking to expand their UGB through the pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to allow a path forward for cities to address affordable housing, while still giving the state an opportunity to evaluate what lessons could be learned for future affordable housing efforts. We believe allowing the city of Pendleton to join the pilot program will have a minimal impact on productive agricultural lands and is the most responsible method for opening up new opportunities for affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions.

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