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and
GROWING STRONG

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
OFB Testimony on HB 2645**

Chair Golden, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today on HB 2645. By way of background, the Oregon Farm Bureau is Oregon's largest agricultural trade association, representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families across the state.

OFB is supportive of Section 2 of HB 2645, which provides that lawful units of land whose property lines are relocated by certain judgments remain lawful units. This section also prohibits requiring additional validating procedures or denying permits because of judicial boundary changes. OFB supports this section of the bill because this is an important and equitable fix for landowners who find themselves in a difficult situation after judicial order. Landowners should not have to jump through additional legal or administrative hoops if their property lines are changed through no fault of their own.

OFB is also neutral on Section 1 on HB 2645, which simply seeks ensure that agricultural buildings are still considered "agricultural buildings" and thus exempt from having to update building codes if they host dog training classes or trials inside the building. From our understanding, this issue comes in response to a county saying that once dog training classes took place inside a horse-training arena, the building no longer qualified as an agricultural building, and therefore the building would lose its building code exemptions, and have to be brought up to commercial code standards. The owner of the horse arena/barn was going to have to pay substantial costs to bring the barn up to code compliance. OFB is unable to find a meaningful difference between dog training or horse training from a building code policy standpoint. Additionally, we do not believe that allowing agricultural buildings to remain at their current building code levels will have significant impacts upon neighboring agricultural operations if dogs are trained inside of the building, as opposed to horses. Therefore, OFB is neutral on this portion of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2645. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

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