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Testimony in Opposition to HB 2238

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, & Water

March 2, 2023

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of our nearly 6,600 family farm and ranch members across the state of Oregon. We oppose HB 2238 which modifies how the Department of State Lands (DSL) establishes fees for their removal-fill programs.

Oregon Farm Bureau was not engaged in the development of this bill, and to our knowledge, there was little to no stakeholder engagement in the decision to move the entire fee program of DSL from statute to rule. While there are assurances from DSL that there will be a “robust and thoughtful rulemaking process” in OFB’s experience in the past few years agency rulemakings have been neither of those things. Finally, OFB does not believe that the state legislature should delegate legislative authority to administrative agencies- currently these fees are in statute, and it is within the scope of your legislative authority to set those rates and you should not delegate that authority away.

We would encourage the committee to oppose this legislation and retain your legislative authority to set removal-fill program fees. Thank you for your time.

Please email lauren@oregonfb.org with any questions related to these comments.