



Date: April 18, 2023

To: Chair and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee

From: Scott Bruun, OBI

RE: Testimony in support of SB 498-1/ Estate tax farm and natural resource family business exemption

Chair Meek and Members of the Committee,

I am Scott Bruun, director of tax, fiscal and manufacturing policy for Oregon Business & Industry. OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify again in support of SB 498. We also support the -1 amendments which we believe are a fair compromise to assure that family businesses stay in the hands of family members.

In too many instances, Oregon's burdensome estate tax system compels families and small businesses to sell a part or even all of the business in order to pay the tax, or alternatively, require family members to incur new unplanned debt to do the same. We support SB 498 and the -1 amendments because it would provide needed and welcome relief for those families which will have natural resource family businesses passed onto them but are not protected, or fully protected, by the current complicated and cumbersome rules around natural resource estates.

Family farms, family fishing businesses, family forestlands: All are integral parts of Oregon's culture and economy, and all are worth our efforts to protect and preserve. OBI is hopeful that this committee will do that by supporting SB 498 and the -1 amendments.

Thank you.

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