

Campaign Finance Reform Efforts in the Oregon State Legislature February 23, 2024

Oregon Farm Bureau is a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing our state's diverse agricultural community. We give a voice to farm and ranch families at the Capitol, in the courts, and within regulatory agencies.

OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization with more than 6,600 member families raising all of Oregon's 250+ agricultural commodities, from hops to hazelnuts, cattle to caneberries, with all farm and ranch sizes, from 10 acres to 10,000 acres, and all farming methods including organic, conventional, biotech, and no-tech.

We have a history of financial engagement in campaigns throughout the state. Due to the important role agriculture plays in our state's economy, OFB strives for an open, democratic, and transparent process.

While we do not have specific policy on this issue, we're encouraged by the work being done on amendments to House Bill 4024 and support balancing campaign finance limits with a candidate's ability to fundraise and communicate with their communities.

OFB has been supportive of the business community's efforts to find a fair and constitutional solution to campaign finance reform. Specifically, OFB appreciates that the voices of our farmers and ranchers will not be silenced and instead our members will continue to be encouraged to participate in the democratic process.

While there may never be a perfect solution, we believe campaign finance reform is best handled by the legislature. We are concerned that the current ballot measures attempting to tackle campaign finance reform are far too restrictive and intentionally create winners and losers.

We encourage the Oregon State Legislature to take action in the 2024 Legislative Session to address this issue.

Thank you.

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