



**OREGON**  
**FARM**  
**BUREAU**

*Locally Grown*  
and  
**GROWING STRONG**

**February 6, 2025**

**To: House Committee on Revenue**

**Re: Support for HB 2301**

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Chair Nathanson, Co-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee,

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

We appreciate the efforts in previous legislative sessions to strengthen the Natural Resource Tax Credit, recognizing the unique contributions of agricultural and natural resource-based businesses to our state's economy and way of life.

House Bill 2301 proposes a much-needed modernization of Oregon's estate tax by increasing the exemption threshold to \$7 million and establishing a flat 7% tax rate on estates exceeding this amount. This reform represents a critical step toward safeguarding the legacy of Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

The current estate tax structure places an undue financial burden on the next generation—often forcing them to sell land, reduce operations, or take on significant debt simply to preserve what their families built. This bill would help ensure that family farms can be preserved across generations without the pressure to liquidate assets to meet tax obligations.

Estate tax valuations should accurately account for government-imposed regulations – all of which can reduce agricultural production capacity and property value. To OFB, preserving the continuity of family farming operations is both important and desirable. Estate taxes should not create undue barriers to passing farms down from one generation to the next.

Maintaining the viability of Oregon's family farms is essential to preserving our state's agricultural heritage and strengthening rural communities. By raising the exemption threshold and simplifying the tax rate, HB 2301 would provide meaningful relief, ensuring that more family-owned farms and ranches may transition smoothly across generations.

Thank you.



Lauren Kuenzi  
Oregon Farm Bureau