



**Oregon Farm Bureau Testimony on SB 1573  
Senate Rules Committee  
February 24, 2016**

**Oregon Farm Bureau Opposes Eliminating Voter Approved Annexation**

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1573, which would eliminate voter approved annexation. Oregon Farm Bureau opposes this bill.

By way of background, the OFB is a voluntary, grassroots, nonprofit organization representing Oregon's farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas. As Oregon's largest general farm organization, its primary goal is to promote educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement for its members and the farming, ranching, and natural resources industry as a whole. Today, OFB represents over 7,000 member families professionally engaged in the industry and has a total membership of over 60,000 Oregon families.

Oregon Farm Bureau opposes efforts to do away with voter approved annexation. In some parts of Oregon, farmland has been brought into the urban growth boundary, but is still being actively farmed. The voters' ability to disapprove annexation has been the last linchpin ensuring that this land isn't annexed into the City, where development becomes inevitable. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Mary Anne Nash at [maryanne@oregonfb.org](mailto:maryanne@oregonfb.org) or 541-740-4062.