



TESTIMONY ON SB 413

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 10, 2019

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is writing to express concerns about SB 413. As an initial matter, we have significant concerns about removing any land use approvals for siting new transportation corridors, particularly when paired with eminent domain authority to construct these roads. The land use process is essential to ensuring that projects are sited in the best location for road accessibility and neighboring landowner and land use needs and that all factors in how to best site the roads are considered before construction is undertaken.

We also need additional information about the taxing authority outlined in Section 1. Section 1 provides the formation and taxing authority of a local property taxing district to fund transportation projects. We have both concerns and questions on the function and implantation of these districts. Local property tax districts historically are used to fund local need projects, not regional infrastructure. This model could place a financial burden a limited sub-section of the population for infrastructure projects where typically as a collective, all taxpayers pay for the construction, access, and continual use of public roadways.

Please contact Mary Anne Cooper or Jonathan Sandau if you have any questions.