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and
GROWING STRONG

House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery

OFB Testimony on HB 3219 & HB 2809

March 15, 2021

Chair Clem, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of both HB 3219 and HB 2809. By way of background, the Oregon Farm Bureau is the state's largest agricultural trade association representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families across the state.

Whether it is through their careers, volunteer opportunities, or responsibilities as rural landowners, Oregon's farmers and ranchers frequently interact with wildfire on the landscape. Rural Oregonians were severely impacted by the unprecedented wildfires that occurred over Labor Day weekend. Many OFB members were on the front lines in their communities, evacuating and caring for their employees, neighbors, animals, and friends who were in danger. Those who lost homes across the state were largely members of the agricultural community, including over a hundred agricultural employees whose homes were decimated by the Almeda Fire. In sum, Oregon's farmers and ranchers fully support the state's efforts related to wildfire recovery.

OFB supports both HB 3219 and HB 2809, as they will provide temporary shelter opportunities for those Oregonians who lost their homes during this year's wildfire season, and those who need the opportunity to rebuild at an affordable and preexisting price point. Additionally, both of these bills have necessary sideboards to ensure that these options will not be abused or cause unintended consequences within our land use planning system.

For these reasons OFB urges your support of HB 3219 and HB 2809. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today on HB 3219 and HB 2809. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

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