

Testimony of Oregon Family Farm Association

**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
May 11, 2021**



Support of HB 2611A Agriculture Buildings

The Oregon Family Farm Association is dedicated to protecting the heritage of Oregon's family farms, helping farmers and educating the public about the health and future of family farming in Oregon. **OFFA supports HB 2611A which seeks to clarify the law around the use of farm buildings.**

The current statute has created confusion about incidental non-farm uses in barns and other agricultural buildings which HB 2611A would correct. The bill is a common-sense approach that does not create any additional risk to the public. It reflects the reality that farmers often use their barns for multiple uses that are personal to the farmer and are incidental to the farm use of the barn – such as, working on the family car, storing some furniture, or parking the RV for the winter. There is no reason to punish farmers who use their barns for secondary activities as long as they don't create additional risk to the public or property and don't take away from the primary use of the barn for farm uses.

HB 2611A is a sensible solution that will help farmers and resolve confusion in current statute. Oregon Family Farm Association would appreciate your support for HB 2611A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Anderson, Oregon Family Farm Association
Beanderson99@comcast.net