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Testimony on SB 864

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

House Committee on Judiciary

March 14, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of our nearly 6,600 family farm and ranch members across the state of Oregon many of whom are volunteer firefighters in their communities. We support SB 864 which protects volunteer firefighters operating in good faith from liability on private forestland.

As longtime stewards of the land, Oregon's farmers and ranchers know firsthand the devastating impacts wildfire can have on rural communities and the importance of our volunteer firefighters. In 2019 the legislature provided liability protection to volunteer firefighters on agricultural lands and that protection should be extended to private forestlands as well. Oregon's volunteer firefighters are often the only line of defense in fighting fires in rural areas, please pass SB 864 and extend this liability protection so that their efforts can continue across land type boundaries. Thank you.

Please email lauren@oregonfb.org with any questions related to these comments.