



“The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926”

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

115 SE 8th Street  Pendleton, OR 97801  541.276.7330  www.owgl.org
Amanda Hoey, Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 28, 2023

To: Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
From: Oregon Wheat Growers League
Re: House Bill 3180

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) is a nonprofit trade association representing the nearly 2,000 farms across Oregon producing wheat. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in response to HB 3180 and the forthcoming amendments.

The OWGL is proud of the role we play in our state's larger agricultural economy. We are also tremendously proud of our record of stewardship, of responsibly growing and producing our crops, and ensuring we leave our farmland better than we found it for the next generation to continue farming.

It is in that spirit we share concerns with the forthcoming amendments to HB 3180. The pending amendment language proposes a significant and fundamental change in the way Oregon views agricultural lands. It has the potential to significantly change the land use pattern in areas, concentrating development on land located in a handful of counties. It can move us beyond the threshold where farms can coexist. By calling out land located in specific Counties, the legislature would be arbitrarily distributing burdens and benefits to only a few. The classification brings in high value dryland wheat and the potential consequences of this change are thousands of acres of productive dryland wheat coming out of production. Additionally, the language pits irrigated vs non-irrigated land against each other. We do not believe that just because land is non-irrigated it is not viable nor valuable.

We appreciate the good faith conversations between stakeholders that we have had the opportunity to engage in over the last month. However, we believe that the proposed language does not represent the low conflict, short term solution, the group was tasked with producing. A fundamental definitional change in the value of agricultural lands is most appropriate for consideration in the long-term process that allows for the assessment of cumulative impacts and consideration of the complexity of values for ag. It will allow for a comprehensive view and conversations on the tradeoffs of the impact to food security, markets, local economies, and farm viability across the state.

**OREGON
WHEAT**

“*The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926*”

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

115 SE 8th Street 🌾 Pendleton, OR 97801 🌾 541.276.7330 🌾 www.owgl.org
Amanda Hoey, Chief Executive Officer

The Oregon Wheat Growers League stands ready to continue working with the bill sponsors, proponents, and stakeholders to achieve final language to HB 3180 and looks forward to a longer-term conversation that will give us the time needed to account for externalities associated with a change of this magnitude to our land use system. We look forward to that conversation taking place over the 2023 interim in preparation for the 2024 Legislative Session.

Thank you,

A stylized logo of a wheat stalk inside a rounded square frame. The logo is light gray. Overlaid on the logo is a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Collin Crocker".

Collin Crocker, President