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Testimony in Opposition to -A3 Amendment to HB 2238A

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
April 26, 2023

Chair Golden 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. We oppose the -A3 amendment to HB 2238A which would add make the modifications on how the Department of State Lands (DSL) establishes fees for their removal-fill programs.

This amendment brings back the original language of the bill and was removed in the House policy committee. Oregon Farm Bureau was not engaged in the development of that language and to our knowledge, there was little to no stakeholder engagement in the decision to move the entire fee program of DSL from statute to rule. While there are assurances from DSL that there will be a “robust and thoughtful rulemaking process” in OFB’s experience in the past few years agency rulemakings have been neither of those things. Finally, OFB does not believe that the state legislature should delegate legislative authority to administrative agencies- currently these fees are in statute, and it is within the scope of your legislative authority to set those rates and you should not delegate that authority away.

We would encourage the committee to oppose this legislation, retain your legislative authority to set removal-fill program fees and honor the work on this bill done in the House policy committee. Thank you for your time.

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