

SB 641 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

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Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits the People’s Republic of China, its agencies, entities organized under its laws or subject to its jurisdiction, from acquiring real property or interest in real property, including tenancy, if the property is zoned for exclusive farm use. Instruments or agreements in violation of the Act would be void and without legal effect. It applies the Act to instruments or agreements executed on or after its effective date.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Twenty-four states currently restrict foreign land ownership. At the federal level, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States ([CFIUS](#)) reviews certain transactions involving foreign investment and real estate transactions by foreign persons for national security purposes. In November 2024, CFIUS expanded its ability to review foreign real estate transactions near military bases.

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act, which became law in 1978, requires foreign investors who acquire, transfer, or hold interest in United States agricultural land to report their holdings and transactions. As of December 2023, the United States Farm Agency (USFA) [estimates](#) nearly 45 million acres of agricultural land is held by foreign persons, including nearly 1.3 million acres in Oregon. About half a million such acres in Oregon have Canadian investors, with Chinese investors owning less than 1 percent. The USFA notes, however, that multi-country investors are categorized by the primary country, and that in other transactions the primary shareholding country cannot be determined. The USFA estimates Baker, Jackson, and Clatsop Counties have the highest amounts of acreage in Oregon with foreign investors.

Senate Bill 641 would prohibit the country of China, and agencies and entities under its jurisdiction, from acquiring Oregon property zoned for exclusive farm use.