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Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

February 5, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water

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Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, members of the committee,

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

We want to thank Rep. Marsh for working with Oregon Farm Bureau and allowing for our members to retain the ability to manage against depredation and crop loss. Additionally, we appreciate that this committee understands that priority and believe House Bill 3143 is a good next step and investment.

Oregon Farm Bureau supports state programs that offer financial and technical assistance to private landowners for beaver management, mitigation, and removal.

A primary concern for our members is making sure the proposed grant program is open to farmers and ranchers through watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations. Beavers are great in certain places and not great in others.

Our members recognize the ecological benefits of beavers for natural water storage, fish & wildlife habitat enhancement. That said, we support ensuring beaver management may continue to occur to protect agricultural lands and conservation projects from damage. Beaver removal is a critical tool on public lands, including state & county roads, state lands, and federal lands, to help protect public and private lands and infrastructure from beaver damage.

Thank you.



Lauren Kuenzi
Oregon Farm Bureau