

February 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
Oregon Legislature

RE: Support for SB 641

Chair Manning Jr., Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 6500 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.

In keeping with our support for transparency and strict limitations on foreign ownership of Oregon lands, OFB supports SB 641. The bill takes an important step toward protecting Oregon's farmland by prohibiting certain foreign governments and entities under their jurisdiction from purchasing or leasing land zoned for Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). Oregon's agricultural land is a vital resource, supporting rural economies, food production, and the livelihoods of farm families across the state. Ensuring that farmland remains in the hands of American farmers, ranchers, and rural communities is essential for food security, national security, and the long-term sustainability of our agricultural economy.

Although a small percentage of the overall land area, foreign ownership of U.S. farmland has increased in recent years, raising concerns about land availability, market prices, and control over critical food production infrastructure. According to an analysis conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation using public data available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Oregon had the fourth-highest increase (+167,108) in foreign-held agricultural acreage (which also includes forest land) from 2022 to 2023.¹

We believe that it is in the best interest of Oregon's agricultural economy when Oregon's working agricultural land is owned and operated by the farmers, ranchers, foresters, and others who live and work in our communities. SB 641 is a critical safeguard to ensure that

¹ <https://www.fb.org/market-intel/foreign-footprints-trends-in-u-s-agricultural-land-ownership>

February 25, 2025

Oregon's farmland remains a resource for Oregonians, not a tool for foreign governments to expand their control over our agricultural sector. Farmland is more than just real estate—it is a strategic asset that directly impacts food security, economic stability, and national defense. Allowing foreign entities to acquire agricultural land raises concerns about who controls our food production, how land is managed, and whether American farmers and ranchers, and the American public by extension, will have fair access to critical resources in the future.

By impeding the acquisition of Oregon's agricultural lands by foreign governments, SB 641 helps protect our food supply from external influence, preserves the strength of our rural economies, and ensures that agricultural decisions are made in the best interest of Oregonians—not foreign interests. Additionally, limiting foreign ownership of farmland is an essential step in national security policy, as control over food production and natural resources can be used as an economic and geopolitical tool. Preserving farmland for domestic ownership and management ensures that America's agricultural infrastructure remains secure, resilient, and independent from foreign influence.

We urge your support for SB 641 and appreciate your commitment to protecting Oregon's farming future. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan J. Krabill', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan J. Krabill
Manager, Government Affairs
Oregon Farm Bureau