

Submitter: Mike Harley

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment SB641  
or Topic:

**\*\*Personal Statement in Support of SB 641\*\***

I am writing this statement to express my steadfast support for Oregon's SB 641, which seeks to prohibit entities from China from owning or leasing farmland within our state. This legislation is not just a protective measure for local agricultural land; it is a vital step in safeguarding the sovereignty and security of our agricultural interests, our community, and our nation as a whole.

China's aspirations to become the world's largest superpower are well-documented, and it is clear that they employ a variety of strategies to expand their influence globally. One of the most concerning strategies is the acquisition of agricultural resources, which play a crucial role in both food security and economic stability. Allowing foreign entities with potentially competing national agendas to control key resources is short-sighted at best. It poses long-term risks that we, as a state and a nation, cannot afford to overlook.

As a resident of Oregon, I have witnessed the profound depth of our agricultural community and its importance not only to our local economy but to our cultural heritage and national identity. Our farmland is more than just soil and crops; it represents the hard work and dedication of generations. Enacting SB 641 is a clear statement about our values as Oregonians: we prioritize our community, our sovereignty, and our long-term interests.

Furthermore, embracing this legislative measure aligns with a larger, necessary conversation about global competitiveness and national security. While there is often a tendency to focus on immediate gains, we must adopt a long-term perspective when it comes to our resources. China has shown a clear understanding of the "long game," and the implications of agricultural acquisition should not be underestimated. By safeguarding our farmlands from foreign ownership, we are asserting control over our food supply and resisting unwarranted influences that could compromise our independence.

In closing, supporting SB 641 is crucial for maintaining Oregon's agricultural security, protecting our state from potential threats, and ensuring that farmland remains in American hands. It reflects a proactive approach to understanding and addressing the complexities of global power dynamics. I urge our state legislators to recognize

the importance of this measure and to act decisively in protecting the interests of our citizens, our resources, and our future.