

February 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon Legislature

RE: Support for SB 218

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, 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.

OFB appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement in support of Senate Bill 218, which directs the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to study the impacts of waste materials generated by wind and solar energy facilities. As advocates for responsible environmental stewardship and the protection of Oregon's agricultural lands, we recognize the importance of understanding the long-term implications of renewable energy infrastructure, particularly as it relates to waste disposal, land use, and potential environmental hazards.

SB 218 aligns with OFB's long-standing support for responsible waste management, environmental transparency, and the protection of productive farmland. The proposed study will provide critical insight on the lifecycle of solar panels and wind turbines, identify potential risks associated with disposal, and help ensure that decommissioning practices safeguard Oregon's natural resources.

Additionally, OFB has consistently advocated for policies that promote renewable energy development in a manner that is efficient, environmentally sound, and does not compromise Oregon's agricultural viability. We appreciate that this bill seeks to proactively address the challenges associated with end-of-life management for solar and wind energy systems, a topic that has received growing national attention.

By supporting SB 218, Oregon has the opportunity to lead in responsible renewable energy waste management while maintaining a balanced approach that respects both

environmental sustainability and the needs of our agricultural communities. We look forward to engaging in this process and providing input to ensure that Oregon's natural resource community, including its farmers and ranchers, are part of the conversation on this important issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau