

March 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Oregon Legislature

RE: Support for Amended SB 788

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, 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.

Oregon's Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zones exist to protect agricultural lands for farming and ranching, ensuring the long-term viability of our state's agricultural economy. OFB has long supported policies that maintain the integrity of these zones while allowing farmers reasonable opportunities to supplement their income through activities that are ancillary and accessory to farm use.

The original version of SB 788 raised concerns by allowing event venues that could have introduced non-farm commercial development into EFU zones. However, we appreciate the amended version and believe that it reflects a reasonable compromise that addresses our concerns. By requiring event venues to be ancillary and accessory to existing farm operations—rather than stand-alone businesses—the bill ensures that agricultural use remains the primary function of the land.

We believe SB 788 with the -3 amendment strikes an important balance between providing economic opportunities for farmers and ranchers while preserving the purpose of EFU zoning. Further, it represents a meaningful improvement that deserves our support.

For these reasons, the Oregon Farm Bureau supports SB 788 with the -3 amendment.

Sincerely,



Ryan J. Krabill  
Oregon Farm Bureau